

## Speaker holds hearing on Manik Bhattacharya's salary request

West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee conducted a hearing on whether former TET Board President and Palashipara MLA Manik Bhattacharya is entitled to receive his salary for the period he was in jail. Bhattacharya, who was incarcerated from October 11, 2022, to September 12, 2024, had applied for his legislative salary for the 23 months he spent in prison. However, this request led to a debate within the Assembly, prompting the Speaker to seek legal advice before making a decision. According to sources, Speaker Banerjee consulted West Bengal's... PG 3



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# Morning India

## Collective efforts imperative to establish global framework for AI: Modi

**MI News Service, New Delhi/Paris:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a strong case for collective efforts to establish a global framework for artificial intelligence (AI) based on open source which enhances trust, transparency and is free from biases.

Co-chairing the AI Action Summit along with French President Emmanuel Macron here, Modi said that AI is changing the polity, economy, security and society, and is writing the code for humanity in

this century. "There is a need for collective global efforts to establish governance and standards that uphold our shared values, address risks and build trust," Modi said, adding that governance is not just about managing risks and rivalries but is also about promoting innovations and deploying them for global good. "We must democratise technology and create people-centric applications. We must address concerns related to cyber security, disinformation and deep fakes," the

prime minister said. Stressing on the need to develop quality data sets free from biases, the prime minister said there is a need to develop open-source AI ecosystems that enhance trust and transparency.

He said the technology should be rooted in the local ecosystem for it to be effective and useful.

Modi started his address with an observation on the potential of AI by stating that AI can cut through jargon and summarise medical prescriptions in a language that can be

understood easily. At the same time, he added that one also needs to understand the limitations and biases of AI. "We must think deeply and discuss openly about innovations and governance. Governance is also about ensuring access to all, especially in the global south. It is where the capabilities are more lacking, be it compute, power, talent, data or the financial resources," Modi said.

The prime minister further said that AI can help transform millions of lives by improving health, educa-

tion, agriculture and so much more. It can help create a world in which the journey to sustainable development goals become easier and faster. To do this, we must pool together resources and talent.

Referring to apprehensions about job losses on account of AI, Modi said history has shown that work does not disappear due to technology but its nature changes and new types of jobs are created.

"AI is developing at an unprecedented scale and speed and being

adopted and deployed even faster. There is also a deep inter-dependence across borders. We need to invest in skilling and re-skilling our people for an AI-driven future," Modi said.

India, he said, leads in AI adoption and techno-legal solutions on data privacy "We are developing AI applications for public good. India is ready to share its experience and expertise to ensure that the AI future is for good, and for all," Modi said.



French President Emmanuel Macron, center left, poses with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Grand Palais during the Artificial Intelligence Action Summit in Paris.

## Vice President Dhankhar expresses his desire to address at WB Assembly

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who was previously the Governor of West Bengal, has expressed his desire to address the state's Budget Session. However, the West Bengal Assembly Secretariat has stated that there is no legal provision or precedent for the Vice President delivering a speech in the state assembly.

According to assembly sources, in order to honor Dhankhar's request, a special session may be convened after the first phase of the Budget Session. It is during this session that the Vice President is expected to deliver his speech.

Sources revealed that Dhankhar sent a letter to Speaker Biman Banerjee through a senior Delhi official, expressing his wish to speak at the assembly. The official also met with the Speaker personally. Reportedly, the Speaker was assured that Dhankhar's speech would not in-

clude any remarks against the state government. Despite this, the Assembly Secretariat clarified that there is no provision for such an address. Consequently, plans for a special session were considered to facilitate Dhankhar's request.

According to sources, Speaker Biman Banerjee did not give a direct yes or no response to Jagdeep Dhankhar's emissary. Reports suggest that the Speaker informed Dhankhar's representative that there is no provision for the Vice President to deliver a speech in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. Therefore, a special session would need to be convened to allow such an address. He further stated that a final decision on the matter could only be communicated after the special session is called. As of now, the date for the special session has not been finalized. The Budget Session of the West Bengal Assembly began on Monday

and will continue until February 19. The second phase of the session is scheduled from March 10 to March 20. Discussions are ongoing on whether Dhankhar could be accommodated for a speech during this period, though no official confirmation has been provided yet.

During his tenure as the Governor of West Bengal, Dhankhar had multiple disagreements with the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) government. He had also criticized the state administration in the Assembly, leading to tensions between him and the ruling party. In response, TMC leaders accused Dhankhar of acting under BJP's influence.

Despite his strained history, Dhankhar now wishes to return to the West Bengal Assembly to deliver a speech, signaling a possible shift from past conflicts. However, whether his request will be officially granted remains uncertain.

## India needs massive investment in energy sector: Modi

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The 21st century certainly belongs to India, asserted Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi. Prime Minister Modi on Tuesday urged investors to invest in India's energy sector, saying the country offers many possibilities in view of its renewable energy goals in the next five years.

Referring to the target of having 500 GW of renewable energy, 5 million green hydrogen output by 2030 as well as the launch of fresh bidding rounds for oil and gas assets, the prime minister said "there are possibilities of new investments and I hope that you explore all possibilities in India".

"There are many possibilities of investment in this sector," Modi said addressing the India Energy Week 2025 (IEW'25) virtually. "You are not just a part of India energy week, you are an important part of India's energy ambitions," Modi told investors.

He further said, "All experts are saying that 21st century is India's century. Bharat is not only driving its own growth but driving global growth." India's energy ambitions, he said, are based on five pillars.

"We have resources which we are harnessing. We are encouraging our brilliant minds to innovate. Thirdly, we have economic strength and political stability," he said.

Also, he said, India has strategic geography which makes energy trade easier and more attractive.

Besides, India is committed for global sustainability and this is aiding new possibilities in India's energy sector, the prime minister added.

For Viksit Bharat, the next two decades are very crucial he said, adding that in the next five years we will cross many milestones.

"Our energy goals are aligned with the deadline of 2030," he said.

By 2030, we want to add 500 GW of RE capacity, Indian Railways will be net zero by 2030 and we aim to achieve 5 MT green hydrogen, he said.

Whatever India has achieved in last ten years shows that these targets will be achieved, he stressed.

In last 10 years, India has become 5th largest economy from 10th largest. In last 10 years, solar generation capacity increased 32 times, he noted. Today India is the third largest solar power generating nation and non-fossil fuel capacity increased three times, he said.

India is the first country among G20 nations to meet its carbon emission cut target set by the Paris global climate conference, he said.

During the India Energy Week 2025, energy buyers will hold meetings with producers in the national capital.

Covering over 1 lakh square metres, IEW'25 will be the second-largest energy event globally in terms of ministerial and CEO participation, exhibition space, and the number of sessions.

The event will showcase India's success with the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) as a model for global adoption.

It aims to foster international collaboration, drive policy discussions, and facilitate technology sharing to ensure clean, affordable, and accessible cooking energy for households worldwide.

## IED blast in J&K kills 2 army personnel including officer

**MI News Service, Srinagar:** Two Army personnel, including a captain, were killed and another was injured when an improvised explosive device (IED), believed to have been planted by terrorists, exploded near the Line of Control (LoC) in the Akhnoor sector near here on Tuesday, officials said.

The Army confirmed the fatalities in the blast and said "own troops are dominating the area and search operations are underway". The officials said the troops were on patrolling duty when they were hit by the powerful explosion near a forward post in the Bhattal area at around 3:50 pm. The injured personnel were rushed to a hospital where two of them, including a

captain, succumbed to their injuries, they said, adding that the condition of the other injured soldier is "out of danger".

The Jammu-based White Knight Corps unit of the Army saluted the supreme sacrifice of the two soldiers.

"Suspected Improvised Explosive Device blast reported in #Laleali in Akhnoor Sector during a fence patrol resulting in two fatalities. Own troops are dominating the area and search operations are underway."

"White Knight Corps salutes and pays tribute to the supreme sacrifice of two gallant soldiers," it said in a post on X.

The entire area was cordoned off after the explosion, the officials said.

## Cybercrime: Govt envisages using AI to track 'mule' accounts

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The government is planning to use Artificial Intelligence to identify 'mule' accounts where cyber fraudsters park swindled funds, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said.

Chairing a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Home Affairs on the topic of 'Cyber Security and Cyber Crime' on Monday, Shah also said that for national security reasons, 805 apps and 3,266 website links have been blocked based on the recommendations of the Indian Cybercrime Coordination Centre (I4C), the government's cybercrime monitoring and detection wing.

Additionally, he said, 399 banks and financial intermediaries have come on board, over six lakh suspicious data points have been shared, more than 19 lakh mule ac-

counts have been caught, and suspicious transactions worth Rs 2,038 crore have been prevented.

Shah said efforts are underway to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) for identifying mule accounts, in coordination with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and all banks to establish a system for their detection, an official statement said.

The home minister said the government will ensure the closure of mule accounts before they even become operational.

A mule account is a bank account used by criminals to move stolen money. He said a total of 1,43,000 FIRs have been registered on the I4C portal which has been used by more than 19 crore people.

In light of financial cyber fraud, the '1930' helpline provides a one-point solution offering

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## Relief to Adani as Trump pauses enforcement of foreign bribery law

**MI News Service, Washington:** US President Donald Trump signed an executive order directing the Department of Justice to pause enforcing a nearly half-century-old law that was used to launch a bribery investigation against the Adani Group.

Trump signed an order to pause enforcing of the 1977 Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) that prohibits American companies and foreign firms from bribing officials of foreign governments to obtain or retain business.

The President directed US Attorney General Pam Bondi to pause enforcement of FCPA, which was at the heart of some of the US Department of Justice's most high-profile cases, including an indictment against Indian billionaire and Adani Group head Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar. Last year DoJ under President Joe Biden charged Adani for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay over USD 250 million (about Rs 2,100 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange



of favourable terms for solar power contracts.

This was concealed from the US banks and investors from whom the Adani group raised billions of dollars for the project, the prosecutors had alleged last year citing FCPA that allows pursuing foreign corruption allegations if they involve certain links to American investors or markets. The pause and the review is being seen as a relief to the Adani Group but it remains to be seen what stand the DoJ takes after the six month review period.

The order that Trump

signed asked "the Attorney General to review guidelines and policies governing investigations and enforcement actions under the FCPA" in 180 days.

"During the review period, the Attorney General shall cease initiation of any new FCPA investigations or enforcement actions, unless the Attorney General determines that an individual exception should be made," it said.

Also it sought "review in detail all existing FCPA investigations or enforcement actions and take appropriate action with respect to such matters to

restore proper bounds on FCPA enforcement and preserve Presidential foreign policy prerogatives".

FCPA investigations and enforcement actions initiated or continued after the revised guidelines or policies are issued "shall be governed by such guidelines or policies; and must be specifically authorized by the Attorney General".

After the revised guidelines or policies are issued, the Attorney General shall determine whether additional actions, including remedial measures with respect to inappropriate past FCPA investigations and enforcement actions, are warranted and shall take any such appropriate actions or, if Presidential action is required, recommend such actions to the President, it added.

Last year, the DoJ had charged a former executive at renewable energy firm Azure, which was at the heart of a case accusing Adani of perpetrating a bribery scheme. The DoJ also brought a criminal indictment.

## Mahakumbh: Over 45 Cr devotees take Holy dip

**MI News Service, Prayagraj:** With just 15 days to go for the Maha Kumbh to end, over 45 crore people have taken a dip at Sangam since the grand event began on January 13, the Uttar Pradesh government said on Tuesday.

The Maha Kumbh will end on February 26 with the last major 'snan' on the occasion of Mahashivratri.

In a statement, the state government said that nearly 55 crore people are expected to visit Prayagraj by

the end of the Maha Kumbh. Even after the three significant 'amrit snans' on Makar Sankranti, Mauni Amavasya and Basant Panchami, the enthusiasm of pilgrims arriving in the holy city remains unwavering, it said. On Tuesday, 74.96 lakh people took a dip at the Sangam by 10 am.

According to the statement, Mauni Amavasya saw the highest footfall of devotees as 8 crore people took a dip that day. Meanwhile, 3.5 crore people participated in the amrit snan on Makar Sankranti and

2.57 crore devotees on Basant Panchami. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh were among the prominent political leaders who took a holy dip at Sangam.

Meanwhile, Bollywood actors Anupam Kher, Olympic medalist Saina Nehwal, cricketer Suresh Raina and Wrestler Khali were among the prominent personalities who took part in the Maha Kumbh, the statement added.

## Mehul Choksi in Belgium for suspected cancer treatment

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Advocate Vijay Agarwal, who appeared on behalf of Choksi, told the court that he wants to file an application to bring on record certain health fugitive diamond trader Mehul Choksi, the prime accused in the PNB loan fraud case, is currently in Belgium for medical treatment of suspected cancer, a special court here was told on Tuesday. Advocate Vijay Agarwal, who appeared on behalf of Choksi, told the court that he wants to file an application to bring on record certain health issues of Choksi "who is at present in Belgium for

medical treatment". Agarwal informed the court that Choksi is suspected to be suffering from cancer. A special PMLA court in Mumbai is hearing the Enforcement Directorate's plea to declare Choksi a fugitive economic offender (FEO). The FEO declaration allows the government to initiate action to confiscate the offender's properties. Choksi, his nephew and fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi and their family members,

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On Tuesday, Minister Aroop Biswas met with the guardians of candidates outside various secondary examination centers under Tollygunge Vidhan Sabha. As part of his initiative, proper seating arrangements, fans, water, and tea were provided for the guardians outside each examination centers.

## Students' agitation following the unnatural death of a girl student in MAKAUT leads to defer examinations

**MI News Service, Kalyani :** When the Vice Chancellor of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad University of Technology, West Bengal, Dr. Tapas Chakraborty rushed to university Haringhata main campus on Monday night, following the unnatural death of a girl student, subsequently announced the defer of Tuesday's examinations.



The examinations have been going on for the in-house students of MAKAUT, WB, for the last few days. There was examinations on Monday night. A Post Graduate first year student of VLSI, Sayani Sen of Durgapur, was missing after her examination.

While she was staying alone in a rented home near to university, her mother came to her following the examinations. According to a student, her mother came to campus on Monday. After the examination her mother was not finding out Sayani, even she was not available on phone. After sometime,

her mother knocked the authority. However, according to students, she was found laying on ground at the back side of Academic building with severe injuries. A source said, she had jumped from the roof top of 5 storied academic building. A student leader Kaushik Saha said, "We found her mobile phone and spectacle on the roof top and her bag was at 4th floor. It indicated that she committed suicide by jumping from that rooftop."

Later on it was learnt from a sources that the said girl had adopted an unfair means during ex-

aminations. The guard allegedly had snatched her answer script and returned after sometime. But the incident allegedly had left a bad impression on her mind and subsequently she jumped from the rooftop of 5 storied academic building. Soon she was recovered. But due to lack ambulance she was taken to Haringhata Rural Hospital minimum 40 minutes later. Saying it, Kaushik Saha said, "On duty doctor in Haringhata hospital said that if she could be taken a little early we could try to save her. He was expired on way to hospital." The hospital is 2

km. away from Makaut.

After returning from hospital, the students blocked the NH 12 in front of university main gate at Haringhata, Nadia. According to Haringhata police, it went on to around 10 pm. and then the VC rushed to the campus. But a traffic jam took place on NH 12 and adjoining roads.

When the workers, faculties and some students reached the gate on Tuesday morning, found the agitating students had locked the gate. There were some hostel students too in the agitation. None of the workers or faculties could enter the campus. A group of students sat in a meeting with administration in the morning but upto 4 pm. no decision was taken, a source said. After the accident, the students blamed the negligence of the authority and demanded the resignation of the Registrar. They stated that if there would be an ambulance driver at night, the student could be saved.

She was taken to hospital by a toto, which had been arranged by students. However, a source stated that the said student was mentally depressed. There were some old cut marks on her wrist. "Her elder brother is a good student and is in Germany. Debraj Mukherjee, a guardian from Howrah Dasnagar said, "My daughter had an exam. today. She is a student of Post Graduate first year in Geo informatics. She was allowed to stay in hostel temporarily for exams. But the incident on Monday night has effected her preparation. The exams. today was postponed. If we get information regarding the Wednesday's examinations, I mean whether it would takes place tomorrow or will be cancelled, could take back my daughter to home."

However, the information at 4.45 pm., the authority has given students the meeting time after 5.30pm.

## ISKA India Ignites Kickboxing Glory in Kolkata

**MI News Service:** The International Sport Kickboxing Association (ISKA) India, a prominent affiliate of ISKA USA, continues to expand professional and amateur kickboxing across Kolkata, Bengal, and the country. As part of its growing influence, the association successfully organized the \*Pro Fight Night\* on \*January 18 and 19\* at \*Turf XL, Kolkata\*, celebrating the skill and dedication of emerging fighters. A highlight of the event was the \*cash awards\* presented by \*Mr. Siddharth Sureka, Honorable Chairman of the \*\*K1 Pro Organizing Committee, and \*\*Mrs. Sraddha Sureka. The top honor went to \*\*Kingshuk Saha of Kolkata (-57 kg division)\* and \*Shera Kotkeny of Goa, both receiving a \*\*cash prize of 30,000. Additionally, \*\*runner-ups Kishore B.K. of Bangalore and Ritam Biswas of Kolkata\* were awarded \*10,000 each\* for their commendable performances.



The event also saw \*ISKA India Pro Title Belt & Cash Awards\* being conferred, with \*Honorable Chairman Mr. Arjun Nighawan\* expressing confidence in India's potential at the upcoming \*ISKA World Championship, scheduled to take place in \*\*Brisbane, Australia, from October 15 to 19, 2025. He voiced optimism that Indian fighters would secure \*\*maximum medals\* on the global stage. Adding to this sentiment, \*Mrityunjay

Roy, Director of ISKA India, acknowledged the \*\*sport's rapid growth\* across the country and emphasized the association's commitment to furthering kickboxing's reach and prominence.

With such initiatives, ISKA India continues to \*pave the way for kickboxing's professionalization, offering a \*\*platform for talented fighters\* to shine both nationally and internationally.

## Ananda Marga Pracharak organizes a three day seminar

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Ananda Marga Pracharak Samgha has organized a three day seminar on Shrii Shrii Anandamur'tijii's philosophy at New Barackpur, North Kolkata. Acharya Sutirthananada Avadhuta and Acharya Tathagananda Avadhuta Central trainers took seminar classes. Acharya Tathagananda Avadhuta explained the meaning of "Moralism", which means "a natural system of morality. The inner spirit of the word samaja -society is 'to move together'. That is, the vitality of society depends on two factors: its existence - a collective creation - and its inherent dynamism. The characteristic of an activating force is that it does not move in a perfectly straight line, rather its movement is rhythmic or undulating; and this

rhythm or wave is not monomorphic but systaltic. The force that moves society forward is also systaltic. When the nature of movement of individual life does not hinder the rhythm of collective movement of society, there remains the possibility of forming a society from the collective movement of numerous individuals - there lies the possibility of creating a universal intellectual structure inspired by the brilliance of sublime ideas. If we try to judge the nature of something by analysing the inner spirit of the word used to describe it, we will have to say without hesitation that humanity has not yet learned how to build a "society" worthy of the name. Even to this day, people have only a very vague notion of the rea-

sons for needing society, let alone of how to build a true society. Movement means the active effort to destroy an existing structure and construct another. The very effort to destroy old, worn-out systems gives rise to the possibility of creating newer systems and codes. It is wrong to infer that because a force is temporarily static after being attacked it is inert; it still possesses the potential to strike back. Of course the force under attack tends to absorb the striking force in an effort to survive, but it cannot do this successfully. I have already explained why. To retard the systalticity of the movement of the striking force is contrary to the characteristics of force. That is why vested interests cannot hold back the progress of society.

## Fatal fire engulfs residential building

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Hygiene issues at Kolkata Airport have become a major concern among ground staff, pilots, air hostesses, and passengers. In August 2024, airport authorities promised a complete revamp of all washrooms to ensure top-notch hygiene and nine restrooms were fully refurbished. However, complaints continue to pour in regarding poor maintenance and neglect of cleanliness in airport facilities.

Passengers and airport staff have taken to social media to highlight the sickening conditions of washrooms. Users on X (formerly Twitter) have voiced their frustration, with one traveler posting: "Shocked to see the unhygienic condition of toilets at Kolkata airport! Foul smell in front of Bay 57 and no proper maintenance. For an international airport, this is unacceptable. Authorities must take immediate action to ensure cleanliness."

Videos circulating on social media ex-

pose stained urinals, accumulated grime in wash basins, and cleaning equipment carelessly left on the floor.

However, in response, airport authorities acknowledged the issue, stating that out of 28 toilets, six are newly renovated, while the rest are still undergoing refurbishment. They also cited contractual constraints preventing the dismissal of unionized cleaning staff. Recently, they replied to a complaint on X, claiming that housekeeping staff work tirelessly but admitted that there is always room for improvement. They assured passengers that renovated facilities would be available soon and apologized for the inconvenience.

While authorities promise improvements, maintaining hygiene is a shared responsibility. It is crucial that both cleaning staff and passengers contribute to ensure a clean and safe environment at Kolkata Airport.

## Heritage Taxis to Hit Kolkata Streets Soon

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In an effort to celebrate Kolkata's rich heritage, the West Bengal Transport Department has approved a new design for heritage taxis. These specially designed taxis will feature artistic embellishments that pay tribute to the city's iconic landmarks. If everything proceeds as planned, these yellow her-

itage taxis will soon be seen plying on the city's streets. A heritage conservation organization had recently submitted a proposal regarding the possible artistic decorations for these taxis. On Tuesday, the Additional Secretary of the Transport Department officially approved the proposed designs, informing the concerned organization through an official letter. According to the approved proposal, the two sides of the yellow taxis will feature black ornamental patterns inspired by the architecture of Victoria Memorial, one of Kolkata's most iconic landmarks. The plan aims to decorate at least 20 taxis per month with these heritage-inspired designs,



and the concerned organization has been directed to initiate this project immediately. Passengers will be able to book these heritage taxis through the 'Yatri Sathi' app, which facilitates cab bookings across the city. The initiative is expected to add a nostalgic yet artistic touch to Kolkata's public transport system while making the

city's yellow taxis more attractive to residents and tourists alike. The move has sparked curiosity regarding whether Kolkata's classic Ambassador taxis—a symbol of the city's heritage—will also receive similar artistic enhancements. While no official confirmation has been provided on this aspect yet, transport enthusiasts are eagerly awaiting updates on the expansion of this heritage-themed initiative. This project is seen as a step towards preserving and showcasing Kolkata's cultural identity, offering both locals and visitors a unique travel experience while maintaining the city's long-standing tradition of yellow taxis.



Kolkata Police distribute helmets to students riding without helmets as part of the Road Safety Week observance in Kolkata.

## Trinamool Leader and Security Guards Assaulted; Vice-President Faces Serious Allegations

**MI News Service, Baduria:** A conflict has resurfaced in Baduria, with allegations of a violent attack on TMC party leader Syria Parveen and her two security guards. Yashakati Atghara Gram Panchayat's deputy chief has, however, denied any involvement in the in-

cident. According to Parveen, the attack was premeditated and intended to kill her. She alleged that Mandal led the assault, which took place while she was returning home from a party program in the Dakshin Shimulia area of Baduria. A complaint has

been filed at Baduria police station regarding the incident. Mandal, however, claimed that he was unaware of any complaint against him and insisted that he was only called to the scene by administrative officials to help resolve a dispute.

## 16,000 kg of explosives seized from truck

**MI News Service, Birbhum:** A huge quantity of explosives was recovered from a truck in the Rampurhat area of West Bengal's Birbhum district on Tuesday morning. Police apprehended the vehicle and discovered 16,000 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, a highly explosive substance. According to officials, the truck was carrying 320 sacks, each containing 50 kilograms of ammonium nitrate.

Three individuals, including the driver and his assistant, have been detained and taken to Rampurhat Police Station for questioning. Police sources revealed that the driver failed to produce valid documents justifying the transport of such a large quantity of explosives. Additionally, inconsistencies were found in his statements during initial questioning.

According to reports, the truck originated from Sangareddy in Telangana and was headed toward Deoghar in Jharkhand. Authorities suspect the explosives

may have been intended for illegal or insurgent activities and have launched an investigation. This is not the first such seizure in the region. Last month, police recovered 20,000 detonators and 15,000 gelatin sticks from an abandoned house in Rampurhat's forested area. Illegal explosives are frequently found in Birbhum, where stone quarries often use them for blasting. In a major operation on June 30, 2022, authorities seized 81,000 detonators, 27 kg of ammonium nitrate, and 1,925 kg of gelatin sticks in Muhammad-bazar, Birbhum. The Special Task Force (STF) of the state police carried out the raid.

Following the National Investigation Agency's (NIA) takeover of the case on September 29, 2022, multiple arrests were made, including several influential Trinamool Congress leaders and local businessmen involved in the illegal trade of explosives.

## TMC MP raises concern over cricket commentary in Parl

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** As India's One Day International (ODI) series against England continues on home soil, a related discussion found its way into Parliament. Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mohammad Nadimul Haque raised a significant issue regarding cricket commentary, emphasizing the need for its improvement.

During the Rajya Sabha's Question Hour, Haque stressed the importance of continuing cricket commentary on All India Radio (AIR), a medium that has long connected millions of cricket enthusiasts across the country. His statement received appreciation, including from Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Thakur, who acknowledged the relevance of the issue.

Speaking in the Rajya Sabha, Haque urged that cricket commentary

should be available in all Indian languages on AIR. However, financial constraints have reportedly hindered this effort. He contested this reasoning, arguing that AIR has a massive reach, with millions of listeners tuning in regularly. "We must utilize this platform effectively," he asserted.

He also raised concerns over BCCI's decision not to grant broadcasting rights to AIR, questioning why India's national broadcaster is being sidelined despite its historical contribution to cricket coverage.

Haque highlighted a growing concern—the declining quality of cricket commentary on AIR. He lamented that radio, which once produced legendary cricket commentaries, is losing its significance in sports broadcasting. To support his point, he named iconic commentators like

Sushil Doshi, Sunil Gupta, Vineet, and Prakash Wankar, who all emerged from radio commentary.

He argued that allowing AIR to continue cricket broadcasts at a high standard would help preserve its legacy and promote the growth of sports journalism in India.

In his speech, Haque suggested measures to improve the quality of AIR's cricket coverage, proposing the development of world-class sports programming. He pointed to the successful models of BBC (UK) and ABC (Australia) as examples India could follow.

"All India Radio reaches 98% of India's population through its 591 stations. As the national broadcaster, it should not be neglected. Instead, we should use it effectively to connect with a broader audience," Haque said.



# LPG cooking made mandatory in Anganwadi Centres, announces Shashi Panja

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The West Bengal government has made the use of LPG gas mandatory for cooking in all Anganwadi centres across the state. This decision comes in the wake of a tragic accident that occurred recently. On Tuesday, Women and Child Welfare Minister Shashi Panja announced that the entire LPG connection process will be completed across all Angan-

wadi centres within the upcoming financial year. The decision follows a devastating fire accident that took place on February 7 at an Anganwadi centre in the Balurghat Rural area. A 55-year-old worker, who had been employed at the centre for 18 years, was cooking using a wood-fired stove when her clothes accidentally caught fire.

The flames spread rapidly, leaving her severely burnt. A farmer working nearby noticed the incident and rushed to help, but the injuries were too severe. Apart from her face, most of her body sustained critical burns. She was immediately taken to Khaspur Hospital and later transferred to Balurghat District Hospital due to the severity of her condition. Despite the doctors'

best efforts, she succumbed to her injuries between 7:00 and 7:30 PM on the same day. This tragic first-of-its-kind accident in an Anganwadi centre has deeply shocked both the administration and the public. The district authorities have expressed their condolences and announced a compensation of 2 lakh for the deceased worker's family. During the state assembly

session on Tuesday, Minister Shashi Panja stated that West Bengal currently has 81,321 Anganwadi centres. The implementation of LPG connections across all these centres is estimated to cost 37.81 crore. The government has now made it mandatory for all Anganwadi centres to shift to LPG cooking, eliminating the use of traditional wood-fired stoves. This initiative aims to

prevent similar fire hazards and ensure a safer cooking environment for workers and children in Anganwadi centres. Authorities believe that this safety measure will significantly reduce the risk of accidental fires while also improving hygiene and efficiency in food preparation. The implementation process will be closely moni-

tored, and funds will be allocated for the smooth transition from wood stoves to LPG. Officials have also been instructed to conduct regular safety audits in Anganwadi kitchens to prevent further mishaps. This move aligns with the state's broader effort to enhance safety measures in public institutions and improve the overall working conditions of Anganwadi staff.

## Cybercrime: Govt envisages...

**From PG 1** various services, such as blocking cards, Shah said. He said the government has also ensured that people are made aware of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's mantra 'STOP-THINK-TAKE ACTION' to make them more vigilant against cybercrime. In recent years, there has been an expansion of digital infrastructure in India, which has naturally led to an increase in the number of cyber attacks, the home minister said. When the cyberspace is looked at from a different perspective, it forms a complex network of 'software', 'services', and 'users', he noted. "Until we consider controlling cyber fraud through software, services, and users, it will be impossible to resolve the issues of cyberspace," he said. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken several significant steps towards making India a cyber-safe nation, Shah said. He added that cybercrime has erased all geographical boundaries and called it a 'borderless' and 'formless' crime, as it has no limits or fixed form. India has witnessed a 'digital revolution' in the last decade and without understanding the size and

scale of this digital revolution, "we cannot face the challenges in the cyber domain", the home minister said. Today, 95 per cent villages in the country are digitally connected, while one lakh gram panchayats are equipped with Wi-Fi hotspots, he said. In the past 10 years, the number of internet users has increased by 4.5 times and in 2024, a total of 246 trillion transactions worth Rs 17,221 lakh crore were made through UPI. In 2024, 48 per cent of global digital transactions took place in India, and in terms of the startup ecosystem, India has become the third-largest country in the world, Shah said. In 2023, he said, the contribution of the digital economy to the gross domestic product (GDP) was around Rs 32 lakh crore, which is 12 per cent, while nearly 15 million jobs were created in this period. Shah also said that today India has become the third-largest country in the world in terms of digital landscape, and the digital economy contributes 20 per cent to the total economy of the country. The Ministry of Home Affairs' goal is to ensure zero cybercrime case, he said.



Aspirants of the Primary TET (2022) and members of the D.El.Ed United Forum set up an iconic food stall during their protest, demanding a recruitment notification for 50,000 vacancies in primary schools, near Indira Bhawan, Salt Lake, Kolkata, on Tuesday.

# Speaker holds hearing on Manik Bhattacharya's salary request

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee conducted a hearing on whether former TET Board President and Pala-shipara MLA Manik Bhattacharya is entitled to receive his salary for the period he was in jail. Bhattacharya, who was incarcerated from October 11, 2022, to September 12, 2024, had applied for his legislative salary for the 23 months he spent in prison. However, this request led to a debate within the Assembly, prompting the Speaker to seek legal advice before

making a decision. According to sources, Speaker Banerjee consulted West Bengal's Advocate General (AG) regarding the legal aspects of Bhattacharya's claim. The AG reportedly advised that Bhattacharya is not eligible to receive salary for his jail term. This opinion was based on legal precedents and legislative rules governing MLA remuneration. The hearing lasted for over an hour, during which Bhattacharya's representatives argued in favor of his claim, citing procedural grounds.

However, no official order has been issued yet, as the Speaker is still reviewing the matter. The case has sparked discussions within the Assembly, with some legislators questioning whether an MLA should receive a salary while being unable to perform legislative duties. Others believe that a formal policy needs to be established to clarify such cases in the future. For now, Speaker Biman Banerjee remains the final authority on the matter, and a decision is expected soon.

## West Bengal ranks among top five in Higher Education enrollment

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** While school dropout rates have increased across India, West Bengal has shown significant progress in secondary and higher education. The state has not only seen a rise in the number of students appearing for secondary exams but has also achieved remarkable growth in college and university enrollment rates. According to a recent NITI Aayog report, West Bengal has emerged among the top five states in India for higher education enrollment over the past decade. Additionally, the state has shown notable improvement in student-teacher ratios, further strengthening its position in the country's educational landscape.

The report also highlights gender parity in education—the ratio of male to female students in higher education. In 2011-12, West Bengal's gender ratio in higher education was 0.76, indicating a lower representation of female students. By 2021-22, this ratio had improved to 1.03, meaning that female participation in higher education had surpassed male enrollment. West Bengal now ranks 13th nationwide in terms of gender parity, while in terms of improvement, it holds the fourth position. In terms of universities per capita, West Bengal ranks 18th, with 38 universities across the state. Karnataka leads in the number of universities, with 43 institutions.

While West Bengal has made impressive progress in higher education, particularly in enrollment growth and gender parity, it still faces challenges in funding and university expansion. The state's continued investment in education will be crucial for maintaining and improving its current rankings in the coming years. Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Mizoram. Meanwhile, states like Tamil Nadu, Hi-

malach Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, and Telangana have surpassed the 40% enrollment mark. West Bengal has also made significant strides in improving its student-teacher ratio. In 2011-12, the ratio was 33:1 (33 students per teacher) but by 2021-22, this ratio had improved to 29:1, marking a positive shift. The report also highlights gender parity in education—the ratio of male to female students in higher education. In 2011-12, West Bengal's gender ratio in higher education was 0.76, indicating a lower representation of female students. By 2021-22, this ratio had improved to 1.03, meaning that female participation in higher education had surpassed male enrollment.

The report, which examines the transformation in higher education enrollment between 2011-12 and 2021-22, highlights a substantial increase in the number of students enrolling in colleges and universities across West Bengal. In 2011-12, the state's Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education was 13.6%. By 2021-22, this figure doubled to 26.3%, placing West Bengal among the top five states in terms of enrollment growth. The only states ahead of West Bengal in enrollment rates are Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, and Mizoram. Meanwhile, states like Tamil Nadu, Hi-

malach Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Kerala, and Telangana have surpassed the 40% enrollment mark. West Bengal has also made significant strides in improving its student-teacher ratio. In 2011-12, the ratio was 33:1 (33 students per teacher) but by 2021-22, this ratio had improved to 29:1, marking a positive shift. The report also highlights gender parity in education—the ratio of male to female students in higher education. In 2011-12, West Bengal's gender ratio in higher education was 0.76, indicating a lower representation of female students. By 2021-22, this ratio had improved to 1.03, meaning that female participation in higher education had surpassed male enrollment.

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## NRS Med College bans free Wi-Fi for on-duty staff

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a significant move, NRS Medical College authorities have prohibited the use of free Wi-Fi by doctors, nurses, and healthcare workers while on duty. The directive states that staff at government medical colleges can no longer access free internet services within hospital premises. The decision comes as new internet facilities are being installed at NRS Medical College, and the administration has issued strict instructions regarding its usage. The hospital authorities have informed the service provider in writing, ensuring that free Wi-Fi access will be restricted to administrative and educational purposes only. As part of this measure, several websites and apps have been blocked within the hospital premises. Social media platforms like Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram are now inaccessible, while WhatsApp and Gmail remain available. Commercial

websites, including e-commerce and streaming platforms such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Hotstar, have also been blocked. Additionally, food delivery apps like Swiggy and Zomato will no longer function within the hospital network. Hospital officials justified the move by stating that free internet access was being misused, leading to distractions among healthcare professionals. The restriction aims to ensure uninterrupted medical services and enhance overall efficiency in the hospital. This step has sparked mixed reactions among the hospital staff. While some believe it will help maintain discipline and improve focus, others feel that limited access to online resources may affect their ability to stay updated with medical advancements. However, the hospital administration remains firm on its decision, prioritizing patient care over personal internet usage.

## Income Tax Officers extend support to contractual workers

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a heartwarming initiative, permanent employees and officers of the Income Tax Department have stepped forward to support contractual security personnel and daily wage workers. On Tuesday, the All India Income Tax SC/ST Employees Welfare Association organized an event at the Income Tax Building, Purva, to honor these workers. More than 200 contractual employees and laborers were felicitated with shawls by senior officials.

## Humayun Kabir's phone stolen from assembly lobby, retrieved within an hour

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a shocking incident, a legislator's mobile phone was stolen from the lobby of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on Tuesday morning. The theft occurred around 11:00 AM while the budget session was underway. Despite strict security measures in place, the phone of Bharatpur MLA Humayun Kabir went missing within minutes. However, the legislator was able to retrieve his phone after an hour, thanks to swift police action. According to reports, MLA Humayun Kabir was seated on a sofa in the assembly lobby before entering the session hall. At around 11:00 AM, as the customary bell rang, he proceeded towards the house, carrying two mobile phones in his hands. Upon reaching his seat inside the assembly chamber, he realized that one of his phones—an iPhone 13—was missing. The legislator immediately returned to the lobby to search for his device but found it missing. He then alerted security personnel and filed a complaint with the police. The theft was reported to Hare Street Police Station, which swiftly launched an investigation. Given the phone's advanced security features, including facial recognition lock, Kabir believed that no one else would be able to access the device. However, within an hour, police managed to track the phone's location and recover it. The MLA did not disclose where the phone was found but dismissed the idea that it was a theft. "This incident cannot be termed a case of theft," Kabir stated, without elaborating further.

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## Pratul Mukhopadhyay hospitalized, CM inquires his condition

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Veteran lyricist, composer, and singer Pratul Mukhopadhyay has been admitted to SSKM Hospital in Kolkata after his health deteriorated. His critical condition has raised concerns among his fans and well-wishers. Upon receiving the news of his declining health, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee personally inquired about his condition. She called the hospital and spoke with the doctors overseeing his treatment. The Chief Minister also sent two

state ministers, Indranil Sen and Aroop Biswas, to visit Pratul at the hospital. The ministers met with the singer, discussed his condition with the medical team, and later updated Mamata Banerjee on his health status. Reports indicate that he is suffering from a severe infection, which has affected his kidneys and lungs. Additionally, his blood pressure is dangerously low, and he has been placed on oxygen support. Doctors are closely monitoring his condition. This is not the first time the Chief Minister

has extended her support to Pratul Mukhopadhyay. During his previous hospitalization on January 15, Mamata Banerjee personally visited him at the hospital and spent time talking to him. It was during this visit that she requested him to sing his iconic song, "Banglar Gaan Gai" (I Sing Bengal's Song). Now, with his condition worsening, Mamata Banerjee has once again reached out to his family and the hospital authorities, ensuring that he receives the best possible treatment.

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# Back-to-back fire incidents in Kolkata: school and slums affected

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The city witnessed yet another fire outbreak, this time at a school in South Kolkata. A fire broke out at Ashoka Hall School on Palm Avenue on Tuesday, filling the area with thick smoke. Fortunately, since the school was closed, no casualties were reported. Fire department officials confirmed that a major disaster was averted. According to sources,

maintenance work was underway at the school when the fire broke out. No classes were being conducted at the time. Preliminary investigations by firefighters suggest that the fire originated from an air conditioning unit during the repair work. The flames quickly spread, filling the school premises with smoke. Upon receiving the alert, two fire engines rushed to

the scene and managed to bring the situation under control after some time. The incident has raised concerns about what could have happened if students had been present during school hours. This fire marks the third such incident in Kolkata in just three days, highlighting growing safety concerns. On Sunday, a massive fire in Narkeldanga re-

duced an entire slum to ashes. Less than 24 hours later, a similar fire broke out in the Taratala area on Monday evening. The pattern of consecutive fire outbreaks has left residents worried about safety measures in the city. A devastating fire engulfed a slum near KPCT Colony in Taratala on Monday evening around 7:15 PM. The flames

spread rapidly, destroying multiple shanties within minutes. Upon receiving the news, Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim rushed to the spot and spoke with firefighters. As of now, the fire is under control, but the exact cause remains unknown. The affected slum, located next to the KPCT Colony quarters, housed around 15 to 20 shanties.

According to sources, the fire department was informed at 7:15 PM, but by the time fire engines arrived, the blaze had already intensified. The situation worsened as several gas cylinders exploded in succession, fueling the flames further. Household items inside the shanties caught fire one after another, turning the entire settlement into a blazing inferno.

## Cleanliness takes a backseat at Kolkata Airport, Authorities respond



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Hygiene issues at Kolkata Airport have become a major concern among ground staff, pilots, air hostesses, and passengers. In August 2024, airport authorities promised a complete revamp of all washrooms to ensure top-notch hygiene and nine restrooms were fully refurbished. However, complaints continue to pour in regarding poor maintenance and neglect of cleanliness in airport facilities. Passengers and airport staff have taken to social media to highlight the sickening conditions of washrooms. Users on X (formerly Twitter) have voiced their frustration, with one traveler posting: "Shocked to see the unhygienic condition of toilets at Kolkata airport! Foul smell in front of Bay 57 and no proper maintenance. For an international airport, this is unacceptable. Authorities must take immediate action to ensure cleanliness." Videos circulating on

social media expose stained urinals, accumulated grime in wash basins, and cleaning equipment carelessly left on the floor. However, in response, airport authorities acknowledged the issue, stating that out of 28 toilets, five are newly renovated, while the rest are still undergoing refurbishment. They also cited contractual constraints preventing the dismissal of unionized cleaning staff. Recently, they replied to a complaint on X, claiming that housekeeping staff work tirelessly but admitted that there is always room for improvement. They assured passengers that renovated facilities would be available soon and apologized for the inconvenience. While authorities promise improvements, maintaining hygiene is a shared responsibility. It is crucial that both cleaning staff and passengers contribute to ensure a clean and safe environment at Kolkata Airport.



Name Change I, Ashraf Molla S/o Nur Ali Residing at Vill - Majerhat, P.o - Rajarhat, P.s - Rajarhat, District - 24Pgs(N), Pin- 700135 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Asraf Ali Molla. I declare that Ashraf Molla and Ashraf Ali Molla is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 11-02-2025.

Name Change I, HAFIZ MOHAMMED MOHSHIN KAZI (Old Name) S/O KAZI YEAKUB HOSSAIN Residing at Vill-Panchpota Dariapur, P.S.-Am-danga, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743711, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as KAZI MD MOHASIN (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public of India vide affidavit Dated 11-02-2025. HAFIZ MOHAMMED MOHSHIN KAZI (Old Name) and KAZI MD MOHASIN (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, PROSANTA KR MONDAL (Old Name) S/O SHASANKA SEKHAR MONDAL Residing at Vill-Bhabanipur, P.O.-Chakdaha, P.S.-Chakdaha, District - Nadia, Pin- 741222, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as PRASANTA KUMAR MONDAL (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Kolkata vide affidavit No. 4075 Dated 27-01-2025. PRASANTA KR MONDAL (Old Name) and PRASANTA KUMAR MONDAL (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, PINKI RAY (Old Name) W/O PARTHA DAS Residing at B/C-3/1, Rajarhat Road Taltala, P.O.-Jyandara, P.S.-Baguiati, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700059, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as PINKY DAS (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public of India vide affidavit Dated 11-02-2025. PINKI RAY (Old Name) and PINKY DAS (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, JOGABANDHU KARMAKAR (Old Name) S/O GOBINDA KARMAKAR Residing at Vill-Rammanagar, P.O.-Kumari, Ramnagar, P.S.-Hanskhali, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as JAGABANDHU KARMAKAR (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public of India vide affidavit Dated 11-02-2025. JOGABANDHU KARMAKAR (Old Name) and JAGABANDHU KARMAKAR (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, AKBARI DEVI (Old Name) W/O PRATAP JHA Residing at 1/173, Mirpara Road Liluah, P.O.-Bhatnagar, P.S.-Liluah, District - Howrah, Pin - 711203, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as AKABRI DEVI JHA (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public of India vide affidavit Dated 10-02-2025. AKBARI DEVI (Old Name) and AKABRI DEVI JHA (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Dilip Corraya (old name) son of Bagan Para, P.O.-Purba Bardhaman, P.S.-Regent, Park, Kolkata-700093, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dilip Gomes (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 06/03/2012. Dilip Corraya (old name) and Dilip Gomes (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Amar Maity resident of Vill-Mandirtala, P.O.-Mud-point, P.S.-Sagar, Dist.-South 24 Parganas WEST BENGAL, India do hereby solemnly affirm and declaring my father's actual name RAMCHANDRA MAITY instead of RAMHARI MAITY, vide an affidavit sworn before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Kaddip, South 24 Pgs. on 10/02/2025. RAMCHANDRA MAITY and RAMHARI MAITY both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Debjani Sen D/o- Bishnu Pada Sen(Old Name) and W/o Thakur Das Halder, residing 7/H/7/1/4, Rani Rashmoni Garden Lane, Tangra, Kolkata - 700015, W.B declare that Debjani Sen and Debjani Halder both are same and one identical person vide affidavit sworn before Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Calcutta on 05.02.25.

Name Change I, Dipak Malik S/o- Naru Malik (Old Name), residing at Vill - Kuldajpur, P.O.-Chakdighi, P.S.-Jamalpur, Dist.-Purba Bardhaman, PIN- 713404 have changed my name and henceforth known as Dipak Malik S/o- Narugopal Malik(New Name) vide affidavit sworn before Notary Public, Purba Bardhaman on 07.02.25. Dipak Malik S/o Naru Malik (Old Name) and Dipak Malik S/o Narugopal Malik (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Mitali Dey (Old Name), D/o Late Tapan Kumar Chakraborty resident of 1B/14, Kaniska Road, A-Zone, P.O. Durgapur Steel Town West Durgapur (M. Corp.) Dist : Burdwan, PIN- 713204, WB have change my name and henceforth shall be known as Mitali Chakraborty (New Name) vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 07.01.25. Mitali Dey (Old Name) and Mitali Chakraborty (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Antara Kar Biswas (Old Name) daughter of Saurendra Nath Kar, residing at 161, Santoshpur Avenue, P.O.- Santoshpur, P.S.- Survey Park, Kolkata- 700075, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Antara Kar (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 11/02/2025. Antara Kar (Old Name) and Antara Kar Biswas (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Rahman Molla, S/O Golam Nabi Molla, R/O Paschim Ranagata, Purba Para, P.S - Mathurapur, South 24 parganas - 743338, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Abdur Rahaman Molla Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/02/2025. That Rahman Molla And Abdur Rahaman Molla Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, (Old Name) Sk Jiyad Ali, Son Sk Khorsed, Residing At Giza Paik Sita, Budge Budge, Po Poali, P.S. Nodakhali, South 24 Parganas-743318, West Bengal, Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sk Jiyad Ali To Sk Jiyad (New Name) In All Purpose Vide An Affidavit No 9824 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 05/02/20 25. That Sk Jiyad Ali And Sk Jiyad Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Anuruddha Hati, Son Of Krishna Chandra Hati, Residing At 47 G T Road Bally Howrah, Bally, Howrah - 711201, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Aniruddha Hati Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/02/2025. That Anuruddha Hati And Aniruddha Hati Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Sk Nasir, S/O Noor Islam Sekh, R/O East Burikhali, P.S.-Bauria, Po-Burikhali, Howrah-711310, West Bengal, Shall Hence forth Be Known As Sk Nasir, Vide An Affidavit No 575 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Uluberia On 10/02/2025, That Sk Nasir And Sk Nasir All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Arati Jana, D/O Kalipada Dey, R/O Vill-Gopalgerhya, P.S.-Debra, Po-Chakbajji, Paschim Medinipur-721136, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Aratirani Jana, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/02/2025. That Arati Jana And Aratirani Jana All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Tanusree Pramanik, W/O Sunil Pramanik, R/O 2714, Thakurpukur Road, Baganpur, P.O.-Kolkata, P.S.-700044, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tanusri Pramanik, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/02/2025. That Tanusree Pramanik And Tanusri Pramanik All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Mufaddal Ilyas Kapadia, S/O Elias Kapadia, R/O Plot 16 Lily Garden Jagatipota, Po-Panchpota Rajpur, Sonarpur(M), South 24 Parganas-700152, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mufaddal Kapadia, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/02/2025, That Mufaddal Ilyas Kapadia And Mufaddal Kapadia All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Jaiprakash Rajak, S/O Krishna Rajak, R/O 270A, Chakpara Manasa Colony, P.S.-Liluah, Howrah-711203, West Bengal, Shall Hence forth Be Known As Jaiprakash Rajak, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/02/20 25, That Jaiprakash Rajak And Jaiprakash Rajak All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Papiya Barman alias Papiya Sarkar W/o Anup Kumar Sarkar Residing at 77 Purbayan, Chingrighata Canal South Road, Po - Nowbhangha, P.S - Pragati Maidan, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700105 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Papiya Sarkar Barman. I declare that Papiya Barman, Papiya Sarkar and Papiya Sarkar Barman is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary public, Kolkata on 11-02-2025

Name Change I, Kiran Biswas S/o Sankar Biswas Residing at Apurba Nagar, Natarag, Bilkanda(CT), District - 24 Pgs(N), Pin - 700113 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Kiran Biswas. I declare that Kiran Biswas and Kiran Biswas is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary public, Kolkata on 11-02-2025

Name Change I, Yasmeeen Rahman W/o Syed Hafizur Rehman Residing at 1, Narkel Danga Main Road, Po&P.S - Narkel Danga District - Kolkata, Pin- 700011 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Yasmeeen Rehman. I declare that Yasmeeen Rahman and Yasmeeen Rehman is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 11-02-2025.

Name Change I, Ashok Kumar Baid (Old Name) S/O Madan Lal Baid Residing at 13, Bondel Road, Ballygunge, Ballygunge S.O, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700019 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Ashok Baid (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 11-02-2025. Ashok Kumar Baid (Old Name) and Ashok Baid (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Four express trains to be cancelled

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to operational reason, 12367 Bhagalpur - New Delhi Vikramshila Express (journey commencing on 12.02.2025), 22466 Anand Vihar - Madhupur Baba Baiyanath Dham Deoghar Superfast Express (journey commencing on 12.02.2025), 22465 Madhupur - Anand Vihar Baba Baiyanath Dham Deoghar Superfast Express (journey commencing on 13.02.2025) and 12368 New Delhi- Bhalgalpur Vikramshila Express (journey commencing on 13.02.2025) will remain cancelled. Moreover, 22308 Bikaner - Howrah Superfast Express (journey commencing on 12.02.2025) will rescheduled 04.00 hrs i.e 03:55 hrs on 13.02.2025 and 12495 Bikaner - Kolkata Pratrap Express (journey commencing on 13.02.2025) will rescheduled 04.00 hrs instead of its schedule departure.

Bombay HC permits Adani Group to cut 209 mangroves for power line construction

MI News Service, Mumbai: The Bombay High Court has permitted the Adani group to cut 209 mangroves for the construction of a high voltage transmission line proposed to increase electricity supply in the city and suburbs, noting it was a project of public importance. The electricity transmission line construction project is critical for Mumbai as the existing capacity of the transmission corridor is not sufficient to carry any further power into the city, a division bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Bharati Dangre said in its order on February 6.

Name Change I, Suhasini Jain(As Per DI No Wb01-2022-0008064), Wife Of Sahil Sethi, Residing At 5a, Sumanagar, 4 Lee Road, Kolkata-700020, West Bengal, Shall Hence forth Be Known As Suhasini Sethi(As Per Aadhar No 6630 7069 8358) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 11/02/2025. That Suhasini Jain And Suhasini Sethi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Abdul Khamal Mondal (Old Name) son of Abdul Shobhan Mondal residing at Vill-Kinkarpur, P.O.-Chanchai, P.S.- Memari, Purba Bardhaman, Pin-713151, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abdul Kalam Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 11/02/2025. Abdul Kalam Mondal (New Name) and Abdul Khamal Mondal (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Golap Hussain & Gulab Hussain (Old Name) son of Late Selim Hussain, residing at 54/95, R.B.C Road, Hazinagar, Naihati, North 24 Pgs, Pin-743135, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gulab Husen (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 11/02/2025. Gulab Husen (New Name) and Golap Hussain & Gulab Hussain (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Mehehub Ara (Old Name) wife of Mahammad Safi and daughter of Shah Amirul Islam (father) and Lutfa Ara (mother), residing at 3E/1, Abinash Choudhury Lane, Arambagh Factory, Gobra, Gobinda Khati Road, Kolkata, Pin-700046, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mahabub Ara (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 07/02/2025. Mahabub Ara (New Name) and Mehehub Ara (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Monotosh Sarkar (Old Name) son of Mantu Sarkar, residing at Vill.- Bhabanipur, P.O.- Bhabanipur, P.S.- Bagdaha, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manotosh Sarkar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 06/02/2025. Manotosh Sarkar (New Name) and Monotosh Sarkar (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Swapan Mondal (Old Name) son of Late Kalipada Mondal, residing at Chak Ramnagar, Ananda Pally, P.O.- R C Thakurani, P.S.- Haridevpur, Kolkata-700104, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Augustin Swapan Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 11/02/2025. Augustin Swapan Mondal (New Name) and Swapan Mondal (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

BSF rescues injured Bangladeshi miscreant after attack in Dakshin Dinajpur

MI News Service, Dakshin Dinajpur: The Border Security Force (BSF) rescued and provided medical aid to a critically injured Bangladeshi miscreant who had attacked border personnel near the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Dakshin Dinajpur district. The incident occurred on February 7, when a group of Bangladeshi intruders launched an attack on BSF jawans. During the confrontation, a BSF personnel sustained injuries, while one of the attackers, Md Alauddin, a 22-year-old resident of Thakurgaon, Bangladesh, was critically wounded. Following the attack in Malikpur village, the BSF acted swiftly to provide emergency medical assistance to the injured Alauddin. He was immediately taken to Gangarampur Government Hospital for treatment.

Despite being an attacker, the BSF troops ensured that he received proper medical attention and did not succumb to his injuries. Hospital sources confirmed that Alauddin responded positively to treatment and remained under medical supervision until he was stable. After receiving medical care, Alauddin was handed over to the Gangarampur police station, where legal proceedings were initiated against him. Authorities are currently investigating his role in the attack, along with the identity of his accomplices.

Man arrested in UP for rape and fraud after fleeing Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: A man who allegedly raped a woman under the false promise of marriage and swindled a large sum of money from her has been arrested in Uttar Pradesh. The accused had disappeared from West Bengal after committing the crime. Based on the victim's complaint, the Kalighat Police launched an investigation, which eventually led them to Mathura, where the accused was hiding. According to police sources, the arrested man has been identified as Satyam Mandal. Though his family resides in Bharatpur, Rajasthan, he had been living in Kolkata's Kalighat area for several years. Satyam was employed with a local catering company, through which he came into contact with the victim, a young woman from South Kolkata. Over time, the two grew close, and the accused allegedly lured her with promises of marriage. The victim has accused Satyam of taking her to multiple locations and sexually assaulting her under the pretext of marriage. Additionally, he manipulated her into giving him several lakhs of rupees by claiming that his family members were unwell and needed medical treatment. He also allegedly told her that he wanted to start a new business and needed financial assistance. However, when the woman insisted on marriage, Satyam began avoiding her. Eventually, he switched off his mobile phone and vanished. Suspicious of his disappearance, the woman visited his residence, only to discover that he had fled the state. Realizing that she had been deceived, the victim filed a formal complaint at Kalighat Police Station. Acting on the complaint, the police launched an investigation by tracking Satyam's bank transactions and new mobile number. Their efforts revealed that he had escaped to Mathura. A team of Kolkata Police officials recently traveled to Uttar Pradesh and conducted a raid in a secret hideout where Satyam was staying. He was attempting to find a new job in Mathura when the police apprehended him. On Sunday, Satyam was brought back to Kolkata, where he is currently being interrogated. Police officials are now trying to ascertain whether he had defrauded other women using similar tactics.

Man Of The Month for January, 2025 Awarded in CLW Chittaranjan



MI News Service, Kolkata: (1) Shri Tirtha Nath Banerjee, AEE/EL-II/Electrical, (2) Md Shahbaz, SSE/Mech/ELA-16/Electrical, (3) Shri Arup Nag, JE/ELS-19/Electrical, (4) Shri Raska Hansda, Sr. Tech/ TM-23/Electrical, (5) Shri Subhas Mahata, SSE/MTS-56/Mechanical, (6) Shri Anjan Chatterjee, Inspector/RPF /ITM/ Security have been awarded with the "Man of the Month" for the month of January, 2025. The award is in their recognition of their exceptional performance, dedication, and contributions. Shri Vijay Kumar, General Manager gave away the award, today on 11.02.2025 & Congratulated. Shri Tirtha Nath Banerjee is looking after testing and commissioning work of three phase locomotives. He has played vital role in trouble shooting of Escort make pneumatic panel equipped locomotive. Md Shahbaz is tasked with overseeing the disposal of a condemned baking oven at the ELA-16 paint shop. Since its condemnation in 2022, the oven has occupied valuable space that could have been used for other operations. Shahbaz is responsible for drafting the tender and supervising the swift dismantling and disposal process. Shri Arup Nag is working in VC Section of ELS-19. He had completed the fitment work of RTIS and LED Base Twin Beam Head Light (New Version) in conversion loco well before the time given to him. He carried out certain rectification works in the dispatch locos by mobilizing the staff in a proper way. Shri Raska Hansda is working on 3-phase stator connections. His successful brazing work has resulted in zero stator failures. Shri Subhas Mahata has resolving critical machine issues, ensuring smooth workshop operations. He addressed recurring failures in the tailstock of the Taki-sawa ATL Machine by re-designing the tailstock center and installing new bearings, permanently eliminating breakdowns. For the Premier CNC VTL Machine, he resolved an X-axis travel unit issue causing wheel bore rejections by modifying the ball screw bearing arrangement, restoring accuracy and preventing further defects. Shri Anjan Chatterjee has always plays a pivotal role in decision making. His advice to his superior officer in dealing a daunting task/situation work as sedative and safeguard the very image of the Railway Protection force.

Police arrest man for raping woman & sharing video in social media

MI News Service, Thane: A 19-year-old woman was allegedly raped by her friend while two others filmed the act and shared the video on social media in Maharashtra's Thane district, police said on Tuesday. The Bhiwandi police arrested the woman's 22-year-old friend for the rape and her girlfriend and another person, who filmed the assault, an official said. According to the police, the assault took place in the Kamatgar area of Bhiwandi on December 29, 2024.

ER implements platform raising works across Sealdah Division

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway enhances Passenger amenities with ongoing platform raising works at several key stations across the Sealdah Division. The stations involved in this initiative include Baharu, Mallikpur, Kulpi, Taldi, Suryapur, Lakshmikantapur, Dhaphdapi, Gurudasnagar, and Sangrampur. These works have been sanctioned and are currently underway as part of a comprehensive infrastructure improvement plan aimed at enhancing passenger safety, accessibility, and overall station facilities. The primary objective of raising the platforms is to improve safety by ensuring that the platform heights are better aligned with the train doors. This will help reduce the risk of accidents, such as passengers slipping or falling while boarding or alighting, and will provide safer and more comfortable access to trains. Moreover, it addresses critical concerns related to uneven platform heights, which can pose a hazard, particularly during peak hours when station footfalls are high. In addition to safety, the platform raising initiative is designed to make stations more accessible, particularly for elderly passengers, people with disabilities, and those carrying heavy luggage. The raised platforms will facilitate smoother transitions, making it easier for passengers to board and alight from trains with minimal effort. This aligns with the broader goal of improving the travel experience for all passengers, ensuring that every journey is as convenient and accessible as possible. These ongoing works will also improve operational efficiency at these stations. With properly raised platforms, the boarding and alighting process will become faster, reducing delays and enhancing train schedule adherence. This, in turn, will contribute to better train frequency and punctuality. The modernization of these stations will lead to a more streamlined rail network, improving service delivery for commuters. While the ongoing works may cause some temporary disruptions, Eastern Railway is committed to completing these upgrades with minimal impact on daily operations. The project is part of a long-term vision to enhance the infrastructure across the Sealdah Division, fostering future growth and promoting greater passenger satisfaction. Ultimately, this initiative aims to position Eastern Railway as a leader in providing safe, accessible, and efficient train services across the region.

We will be a responsible opposition: AAP

MI News Service, New Delhi: AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal met its 22 newly elected MLAs and asked them to work for the people. Outgoing chief minister Atishi, who is among the 22 AAP leaders who weathered the BJP storm, said the party will play the role of a constructive opposition and ensure that the saffron party delivers on its promises. Kejriwal directed the newly elected MLAs to serve the people and solve their problems, she said. "The AAP will play the role of a constructive opposition and ensure that the BJP pays Rs 2,500 per month to women by March 8 as was promised by it, provides 300 units of free electricity and continues other facilities for the people," she said.



Young man arrested at Indo-Nepal Border with narcotics MI News Service, Kolkata: A young man from Nepal was arrested at the Indo-Nepal border while attempting to smuggle narcotics.

Howrah - Patna - Howrah Vande Bharat Exps gains popularity! now run with 16 coaches

MI News Service, Kolkata: Vande Bharat Express trains, which have already gained momentum in passenger patronization, are also satisfying passengers with a high level of comfort and high-speed travel.



An impressive array of 25 new features designed to enhance the overall travel experience. Accordingly, to fulfill the demand of passengers, Railway has decided to run 22347/22348 Howrah - Patna - Howrah Vande Bharat Express boats

Aero India: Rajnath Singh kicks off biennial air show

MI News Service, New Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh kicked off the 15th edition of Aero India - the country's biennial air show - in Bengaluru and described it as "the Kumbh of research".

cases the culture of India, Aero India will display the power of India." Rajnath said at the inaugural ceremony at the Air Force Station in Yelahanka.

try nor been involved in any great power rivalry. "We have always been an advocate of peace and stability. It is part of our fundamental ideals," he said.

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender No. LRC-3\_CORROSION - LHB dated 10.02.2025. E-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (LHB), Carriage and Wagon Workshop, Eastern Railway, Lituah, Howrah-711204

EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21(Notice)/639, dated 10.02.2025. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah-711101

MI News Service, Prayagraj/Kolkata/Bhopal: Multiple road accidents killed many Mahakumbh devotees. Three devotees on their way to attend the Maha Kumbh died after being hit by a vehicle near Nagathpur National Highway here on Tuesday, police said.

Mahakumbh: Multiple road accidents kill devotees



MI News Service, Prayagraj/Kolkata/Bhopal: Multiple road accidents killed many Mahakumbh devotees. Three devotees on their way to attend the Maha Kumbh died after being hit by a vehicle near Nagathpur National Highway here on Tuesday, police said.

an unidentified vehicle hit their SUV near Kanchanpur village on National Highway no. 30 at around 4 am, Nandan Dehat police station in-charge KN Banjar said.

SHO said. They were travelling from West Bengal's Purulia in to take dip at Sangam in Maha Kumbh, the SHO said, adding that the bodies have been sent for post-mortem. In the mean time, nine persons returning from Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj were killed and five injured in two road accidents in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur and Maihar districts on Tuesday morning, officials said.

on a highway from the wrong side, leading to the accident, eyewitnesses claimed. Seven persons died on the spot, while several others were trapped inside the mini-bus, they said.

The truck was heading towards the accident site, SHO said. The truck was heading towards the accident site, SHO said. The truck was heading towards the accident site, SHO said.

EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21(Notice)/639, dated 10.02.2025. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah-711101

EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21(Notice)/639, dated 10.02.2025. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway Station, Howrah-711101

Amamotkaranama Ammar mukul shrimati Anita Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande

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Notice regarding Power of Attorney as per West Bengal Govt Order No. 1000-15/22/2024 dated 27.02.2024

Notice regarding Power of Attorney as per West Bengal Govt Order No. 1000-15/22/2024 dated 27.02.2024

Office of the Concillors of Haringhata Municipality Subarnapur, Haringhata, Nadia. Notice Inviting e-Tender

Barjihaty Gram Panchayat Barjihaty, Chanditala, Hooghly Notice Inviting Tender

Nabastha-I Gram Panchayat Ausha, Nabastha, Purba Bardhaman Notice Inviting e-Tender

Mallickpur Gram Panchayat D/Mamudpur, Rajarampur, Falta email: mallickpurp01@gmail.com Notice Inviting e-Tender

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Mallickpur Gram Panchayat D/Mamudpur, Rajarampur, Falta email: mallickpurp01@gmail.com Notice Inviting e-Tender

EAST COAST RAILWAY e-Tender Notice No. ETELCONBBS-361E, Dated: 01.02.2025 NAME OF WORK 3 PROVISION OF SHIFTO/416KV 2X100KVA SUBSTATION, LIFTING OF 250 KVA SUB-STATION, SHIFTING/MODIFICATION OF HT/LT LINE, ELECTRIFICATION OF 04 NOS. SIGNAL & TELECOM CROSSING GATES, SSP BUILDING, SIGNAL & TELECOM BUILDING (G+1), FOOT OVER BRIDGE AT SASON & SARALA, PLATFORM AND APPROACH ROAD LIGHTING AT SASON IN CONNECTION WITH 3RD & 4TH LINE BETWEEN SARBALPUR AND UNDER SAMBALPUR DIVISION OF EAST COAST RAILWAY.

EASTERN RAILWAY e-Tender Notice No.: NIT/02/25/8, Dated: 10.02.2025. Principal Chief Materials Manager, 17, Netaji Subhash Road, 2nd Floor, Fairlie Place, Kolkata-700011, Eastern Railway invites e-Tenders for supply of the following items.

Amamotkaranama Ammar mukul shrimati Anita Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION REGARDING ENERGIZATION AT HOWRAH STATION Notice is hereby given to all users of Railway Lines and premises situated on the completed section of the undemoted section of Eastern Railway that the 25000 Volt, 50 Hz, AC Overhead Traction wires will be energized on or after 13.02.2025.

Amamotkaranama Ammar mukul shrimati Anita Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande, Shri Shri Rujit Deshpande

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PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal - 700091. The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Enforcement, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.



# Hearing relaxing words in sleep slows your heart down: Research

WASHINGTON DC [US]: Researchers from the GIGA - Centre of Research Cyclotron at the University of Liege discovered that the body reacts to the external world when sleeping, which explains how sensory input might alter sleep quality.

Researchers at ULiege have collaborated with the University of Fribourg in Switzerland to investigate whether the body is truly disconnected from the external world during sleep. To do so, they focused on how heartbeat changes when we hear different words during sleep. They found that relaxing words slowed down cardiac activity as a reflection of deeper sleep and in comparison to neutral words that did not have such a slowing effect. This discovery is presented in *Journal of Sleep Research* and sheds new light on brain-heart interactions during sleep.

Matthieu Koroma (Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS postdoctoral researcher), Christina Schmidt and Athena Demertzi (both Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS Research Associate) from the GIGA Cyclotron Research Center at ULiege teamed up with colleagues from University of Fribourg to lead a previous study analysing brain data (electroencephalogram) showing that relaxing words increased deep sleep duration and sleep quality, showing that we can positively



influence sleep using meaningful words. By that time, the authors hypothesized that the brain also remains able to interpret sensory information in a way that makes our body more relaxed after hearing relaxing words during sleep. In this new study, the authors had the opportunity to analyze cardiac activity (electrocardiogram) to test this

hypothesis and found that the heart slows down its activity only after the presentation of relaxing, but not control words.

Markers of both cardiac and brain activity were then compared to disentangle how much they contributed to the modulation of sleep by auditory information. Cardiac activity has been indeed proposed to direct-

ly contribute to the way we perceive the world, but such evidence was so far obtained in wakefulness. With these results, the ULiege researchers showed that it was also true in sleep, offering a new perspective on the essential role of bodily reactions beyond brain data for our understanding of sleep.

"Most of sleep research focuses on the brain and rarely investigates bodily activity", says Dr. Schmidt.

"We nevertheless hypothesize that the brain and the body are connected even when we cannot fully communicate, including sleep. Both brain and body information need then to be taken into account for a full understanding of how we think and react to our environment", explains Dr. Demertzi.

"We shared freely our methodology following the principles of Open Science hoping that the tools that helped to make this discovery will inspire other researchers to study the role played by the heart in other sleep functions", Dr. Koroma advocates.

This work offers a more comprehensive approach about the modulation of sleep functions by sensory information. By looking into the cardiac responses to sounds, we may, for example, study in the future the role of the body in the way sounds influence emotional processing of memories during sleep.

# Gene therapy improves advanced heart failure in animal model: Study



LOS ANGELES [US] : During a heart attack, blood stops flowing into the heart. Without oxygen, a portion of the heart muscle dies.

The heart muscle does not regenerate, instead, it replaces dead tissue with a scar made of cells called fibroblasts that do not help the heart pump. If there is too much scarring, the heart gradually enlarges (dilates), weakens, and eventually ceases working.

"The current thought is that advanced or chronic heart failure, a stage in which the cardiac muscle has become too weak, is a point of no return. The present understanding is that it is not possible to stimulate a heart in this condition to generate new heart cells to repair itself and that only palliative treatment is available to patients," said corresponding author Dr. Tamer M. A. Mohamed, associate professor of surgery and medicine and director of cardiac regeneration at Baylor College of Medicine.

"In this study published in the journal *Cardiovascular Research*, we show that advanced heart failure can be treated to improve cardiac function in an animal model."

In a previous study, Mohamed and his collaborators had successfully used gene therapy to improve acute cardiac dysfunction in animals. Their method effectively and specifically delivered genes that promote proliferation to heart cells, generating new heart muscle. This approach not only strengthened the heart improving its ability to keep the blood flowing, but also prevented typical subsequent congestion in

the liver, kidneys and lungs in rats and pigs.

"In this study, we did something that had not been done before," Mohamed said. "We intervened with the same gene therapy but not during acute heart failure or early in the disease as in our previous experiments, but late in the disease during the chronic phase four weeks after cardiac injury had severely damaged the heart."

Four months after treating the animals, the researchers checked cardiac function and heart structure. "We were surprised to see evidence of significant heart cell proliferation, a marked reduction in scar size and a significant improvement in cardiac function," said first author Dr. Riham R. E. Abouleisa, assistant professor of surgery-cardiothoracic surgery at Baylor.

"Although heart dilation and lung congestion associated with chronic heart failure were not improved, the treatment partially improved liver and kidney functionality." The findings showed for the first time that contrary to expectations, it is possible to induce heart cell proliferation during advanced states of heart failure and improve heart function, with some beneficial effects on the liver and kidneys' functions.

"Our work has important implications for the large group of patients with advanced heart failure for whom there are currently no treatments to improve their condition," Mohamed said. "This approach offers the possibility of developing future new therapies for this deadly disease."

# Study finds how pesticide exposure linked with stillbirth risk

ARIZONA [US] : New research suggested that living less than 0.3 miles from a pesticide use area before getting pregnant and throughout the first trimester of pregnancy may increase the risk of stillbirths.

Research by Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Centre. Certain pesticides, particularly the class of organophosphates, were linked to stillbirth throughout the first trimester of pregnancy and a 90-day preconception window, according to research findings.

The study "Pesticide Exposure During the First Trimester and Its Associations With Stillbirth" was released in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

"In this study, some specific ingredients stood out due to their significant associations with stillbirth risk," said first author Melissa Furlong, PhD, who studies the chronic health effects of environmental contaminants as an assistant professor and environmental epidemiologist at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center at the R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy. "These findings underscore the importance of considering individual pesticides rather than just the overall pesticide class, as specific chemical compounds may pose unique risks. It also highlights the potential for pre-pregnancy exposures to affect reproductive outcomes."

To conduct the study, researchers linked Arizona pesticide use records for 27 different pesticides with state birth certificate data that included 1,237,750 births and 2,290



stillbirths from 2006 to 2020. They found that living within .31 miles (500 meters) of specific pyrethroid, organophosphate or carbamate pesticide applications during a 90-day pre-conception window or the first trimester was associated with an increased risk of stillbirth. Specifically, the pesticides cyfluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin, organophosphates as a class, malathion, carbaryl and propamocarb hydrochloride were linked to increased stillborn births pre-conception. During the first trimester, fenprothrin, permethrin, organophosphates as a class,

acephate and formetanate hydrochloride were associated with stillbirths. "Among organophosphates, acephate showed the strongest effect estimates on stillbirth, so that exposure to acephate in the first trimester was associated with a doubling of risk," said co-author Paloma Beamer, PhD, a professor and interim associate dean at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center, U of A Health Sciences Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center and BIO5 Institute. "Within the pyrethroid class, cyfluthrin exposure during the 90 days prior to conception almost doubled the risk of stillbirth."

Pesticides are chemical substances used to control pests in various settings. They are commonly categorized into different classes, such as organophosphates, pyrethroids and carbamates. The primary route of exposure for most people is through diet, but household use, agricultural drift and occupational exposure are also significant pathways.

Researchers say while some pesticides may not have been directly implicated in this study, they could still pose risks to maternal and fetal health.

Pregnant women may be particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of pesticide exposure due to physiological changes during pregnancy, such as increased metabolic rate, altered hormone levels and changes in the immune system. The developing fetus may be more susceptible to the toxic effects of pesticides during this period of rapid growth and development.

# Plant-based diet linked to better sexual health in males treated with prostate cancer: Study

WASHINGTON DC [US] : According to a new study, a diet low in meat and dairy but high in fruits, vegetables, grains, and nuts is associated with lower rates of erectile dysfunction, urinary incontinence, and other frequent side effects in prostate cancer patients.

Led by researchers at NYU Grossman School of Medicine and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the analysis of more than 3,500 men with prostate cancer explored whether eating a more plant-based diet was associated with quality-of-life issues that often arise after treatment. Sorting patients into five groups (quintiles) based on the proportion of plant versus animal foods the men said they eat, the authors found that the quintile that consumed the most plants scored 8% to 11% better in measures of sexual function compared with the group that consumed the least.

Similarly, the results revealed up to 14% better scores for urinary health, with fewer instances of incontinence, obstruction, and irritation. The authors further found up to 13% better scores in hormonal health (which assesses symptoms like low energy, depression, and hot flashes) among the highest quintile of plant-based diet compared with the lowest.

"Our findings offer hope for those looking for ways to improve their quality of life after undergoing surgery, radiation, and other common therapies for prostate cancer, which can cause significant side effects," said study lead author and urologist Stacy Loeb, MD. "Adding more fruits and vegetables to their diet, while reducing meat and dairy, is a simple step that patients can take," added Loeb, a professor in the Departments of Urology and Population Health at NYU Langone Health.

Prostate cancer is among the most common and deadliest forms of cancer among American men,

according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Previous research by the same team had already found that eating a plant-based diet may reduce the risk of developing the disease in the first place. Other investigations have connected this diet to a lower risk of sexual dysfunction in general but not specifically for those with prostate cancer, who are at particularly high risk for such issues.

The new study, publishing online Feb. 13 in the journal

every two years, assessed frequency of incontinence, difficulties maintaining an erection, and problems with bowels, energy, and mood, among many other health concerns. Most of the patients (more than 83%) had received prostate cancer treatment, Loeb notes, and all included in the current study had early forms of the disease that had not yet spread to other organs. She adds that when searching for potential connections between plant-based diet and health, the



Cancer, is also believed to be the first of its kind to show better urinary health in these patients based on nutrition, says Loeb.

For the research, the team analyzed data from the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study, an ongoing investigation begun in 1986 and sponsored by Harvard Chan School. The data set is composed of information on more than 50,000 male dentists, pharmacists, optometrists, osteopaths, podiatrists, and veterinarians. The project was designed to better understand how nutrition influences risks related to cancer, heart disease, and other serious illnesses.

As part of the project, men with prostate cancer answered a questionnaire every four years about the kinds of foods they ate and in what proportions. Another survey, which was administered

research team took into account weight, physical activity, and many other factors that could affect quality of life.

Among the findings, the researchers say, eating high amounts of any plant-based food was linked to better sexual health, urinary health, and vitality scores, regardless of demographic factors, lifestyle differences, or history of other medical issues such as diabetes. Eating more healthy plant-based food was also associated with better bowel function, which, Loeb says, may be explained by the dietary fiber found in plants.

"These results add to the long list of health and environmental benefits of eating more plants and fewer animal products," said Loeb. "They also clearly challenge the historical misconception that eating meat boosts sexual func-

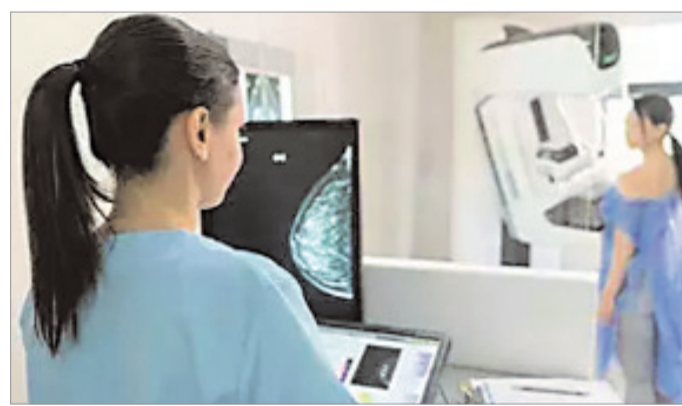
# Study reveals new ways to find accurate method for cervical cancer screening

TOKYO, JAPAN : About 500,000 new cases of cervical cancer are detected annually, making it a very common type of cancer. The startling fact is that there are 20 times more people with cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN), another name for precursor lesions in the cervix.

Early detection of cervical cancer can have a significant impact on a patient's prognosis regarding treatment outcomes, as it can with many other potentially fatal illnesses. Consequently, it is critical to design screening techniques for cervical cancer and CIN that are simple, convenient, and effective.

At present, the most popular methods of screening for these disorders are the cytology examination and the human papillomavirus (HPV) test. Although cytology is widely used as a screening technique in many nations, its sensitivity for identifying CIN is very poor. However, although HPV infections may not necessarily result in cervical lesions, HPV tests have poor specificity despite their high sensitivity. It is even more important to develop better diagnostic techniques in light of these shortcomings.

Against this backdrop, a research team led by Professor Takuma Fujii from Fujita Health



University, Japan, aimed to identify biomarkers that could assist in the early detection of cervical cancer. In their latest paper published in *Cancer Science*, they report on a series of compounds that show abnormal expression in serum and cervical mucus samples of cervical cancer patients. These findings could potentially revolutionize disease prevention strategies. Interestingly, the use of cervical mucus samples as part of a potential diagnostic tool was not initially planned. "We wanted to investigate how changes in local immunity are related to cervical cancer, and so, we aimed to study all the currently known microRNAs (miRNAs) associated

with the development and progression of cervical tumors," explains Fujii. Adding further, Fujii says, "Initially, we focused on developing a serum-based diagnostic method for clinical use. However, we realized it would be better to first verify if molecular expression levels in the local tissue correlated with serum, assessing the feasibility of a serum diagnostic method." To achieve these goals, the research team compared the miRNA and cytokine profiles from serum and mucus samples. These were collected from patients with cervical cancer or CIN who underwent routine gynecological examinations at Fujita Health University Hospital,

over approximately eight years. Through initial screening, the researchers identified three candidate miRNAs and five candidate cytokines in serum, and five candidate miRNAs and seven candidate cytokines in mucus.

With the help of miRNA real-time PCR tests and cytokine immunoassay experiments on a larger sample size, the team verified the abnormal expression of these biomarkers on patients with cervical cancer at different stages of the disease. They subsequently evaluated the diagnostic potential of these compounds. Surprisingly, while miRNAs and cytokines in serum showed limited diagnostic accuracy, a specific combination of miRNAs and cytokines in mucus samples proved much more promising. This suggests that focusing on changes in local expression levels, rather than serum levels, may offer a superior diagnostic strategy. "Our study, for the first time, demonstrates that analyzing mucus samples can distinguish cervical tumors from normal tissues more accurately than serum samples. Using such a method as an additional option to traditional screening techniques could help discover cancer and precancerous conditions at an earlier stage," remarked Fujii.

# Heart transplant amid Delhi downpour: Fortis Gurugram saves Rohtak man's life with Kolkata donor heart

GURUGRAM (HARYANA) : While Delhi and its surrounding National Capital Region were grappling with intense rains and sudden showers on July 31, a team of doctors at Fortis Gurugram successfully transplanted the heart of a 54-year-old brain-dead woman from Kolkata into a 34-year-old man from Rohtak, Haryana, who was suffering from dilated cardiomyopathy. The donor heart was received from a government hospital in Kolkata, where the 54-year-old road accident victim was admitted and later declared brain-dead.

After receiving approval from the National Organ & Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), the team of doctors from Fortis Hospital Gurugram went to Kolkata to retrieve the heart. For swift transportation of the



organ, Kolkata Police created a green corridor, and the heart was brought to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata. The heart was flown to Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, and was smoothly transported from the airport via VIP exit. The

Delhi and Gurugram Police seamlessly coordinated to create a green corridor, enabling the organ to traverse the 18 km distance from IGI Airport to Fortis Hospital, Gurugram, in just 13 minutes despite heavy traffic congestion and sudden downpours. The entire process was managed in around 4 hours with the help and support of around 100 police officers. The heart was successfully transplanted by a team of doctors led by cardiothoracic vascular surgeon Dr. Udeghath Dhir. Post-transplant, the patient is stable and under constant observation in the cardiac ICU. The 34-year-old recipient was brought to Fortis Gurugram in a critical state, with only 10-15 per cent of his heart functioning, and was registered on the NOTTO list for a heart transplant.



### Tibetan politician applauds UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Tibet

MI News Service, London: Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel expressed his gratitude to Chris Law, MP for the Scottish National Party and chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Tibet, for the group's official introduction in the UK Parliament on behalf of the Tibetan people and the 17th Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile. In the letter written to Chris Law, Speaker Tenphel characterized the initiative as a significant step forward, guaranteeing a powerful and prominent voice for Tibet within the UK Parliament. He underlined how important the group is in promoting human rights, peace, and the conservation of Tibet's distinctive cultural legacy.

All of the distinguished members of the organization were recognized for their services in the letter posted on X. Khenpo Sonam Tenphel conveyed his heartfelt gratitude and congratulated them for their support. He said that their work highlighted the significance of group efforts to create a more equitable and respectable world and conveyed a strong message of optimism to the Tibetan people. While sharing the letter written to Law on X, Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile stated, "Speaker Khenpo Sonam Tenphel, in a letter written to MP Chris Law - Scottish National Party's MP and Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Tibet, extended his heartfelt gratitude on the formal launch of the UK's All Party Parliamentary Group on Tibet."

The Tibetan population in exile has demanded more robust measures to preserve and advance the Tibetan language, religion, and culture, according to Central Tibetan Administration statement. The community called on all Tibetans residing in free nations to step up their efforts, stressing that maintaining Tibetan identity is crucial for the sake of Tibetans as well as for protecting a priceless and distinctive global legacy.

### Hell will break out if hostages not released by Saturday, Trump warns Hamas

MI News Service, Washington DC : United States President Donald Trump said on Monday that Israel should end the ceasefire in Gaza and resume military action if all hostages are not released by the end of the week, Times Of Israel reported. This came after Hamas announced a delay in releasing hostages scheduled for Saturday. Speaking with the reporters, Trump said that Israel might choose to disregard his ultimatum and the Saturday noon deadline, adding that he might speak to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "As far as I am concerned, if all of the hostages aren't returned by Saturday at 12 o'clock, I think it's an appropriate time. I would say, cancel it and all bets are off and let hell break out. I'd say they ought to be returned by 12 o'clock on Saturday," Trump said. Trump's comments came hours after Hamas announced that it intended to delay the next release of Israeli hostages planned for Saturday, "until further notice," in response to what it claimed were Israeli violations of the ongoing hostage-ceasefire deal, Times of Israel reported.

In a post on X published before Trump spoke, Abu Obeida, spokesman for Hamas' armed wing Qassam Brigades, said that the handover of the hostages "who were scheduled to be released next Saturday ...



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Speaker of the People's Majlis of Maldives Abdul Raheem Abdulla during a meeting in New Delhi.

## Trump to host Jordan's King Abdullah II amid push for Gaza resettlement plan

MI News Service, Washington: President Donald Trump will host Jordan's King Abdullah II at the White House on Tuesday as he escalates pressure on the Arab nation to take in refugees from Gaza — perhaps permanently — as part of his audacious plan to remake the Middle East.

The visit is happening at a perilous moment for the ongoing ceasefire in Gaza as Hamas, accusing Israel of violating the truce, has said it is pausing future releases of hostages and as Trump has called for Israel to resume fighting if all those remaining in captivity are not freed by this weekend.

Trump has proposed the US take control of Gaza and turn it into "the Riviera of the Middle East," with Palestinians in the war-torn territory pushed into neighbouring nations with no right of return.

He suggested on Monday that, if necessary, he would withhold US funding from Jordan and Egypt, longtime US allies and among the top recipients of its foreign aid, as a means of persuading them to accept additional Palestinians from Gaza.

"Yeah, maybe. Sure, why not?" Trump told reporters. "If they don't, I would conceivably withhold aid, yes." Jordan is home to more than 2 million Palestinians and, along with other Arab states, has flatly rejected Trump's plan to relocate civilians from Gaza. Jordan's foreign minister, Ayman Safadi, said last week that his country's opposition to Trump's idea was "firm and unwavering."

In addition to concerns about jeopardizing the long-held goals of a two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict, Egypt and Jordan have privately raised security concerns about welcoming large numbers of additional refugees into their countries even temporarily. When asked how he'd persuade Abdullah to take in Palestinians, Trump told reporters, "I do think he'll take, and I think other countries will take also. They have good hearts." The king is also meeting with top Trump administration officials during his visit, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio, national security adviser Mike Waltz, Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff and Defense Secretary

Pete Hegseth. He is the third foreign leader to hold an in-person meeting with Trump since his Jan. 20 inauguration.

Trump announced his ideas for resettling Palestinians from Gaza and taking ownership of the territory for the US during a press conference last week with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Trump initially didn't rule out deploying US troops to help secure Gaza but at the same time insisted no US funds would go to pay for the reconstruction of the territory, raising fundamental questions about the nature of his plan. After Trump's initial comments, Rubio and White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt insisted that Trump only wanted Palestinians relocated from Gaza "temporarily" and sought an "interim" period to allow for debris removal, the disposal of unexploded ordnance and reconstruction.

But he was asked in an interview with Fox News' Bret Baier that aired Monday if Palestinians in Gaza would have a right to return to the territory under his plan, he replied, "No, they wouldn't."

### Sealdah B.R.Singh Hospital organized a National Conference on Ophthalmology



MI News Service, Kolkata: B.R.Singh hospital is a pioneering Health Care Institution run by Eastern Railway/Sealdah Division, which provides comprehensive health care support for Railway beneficiaries, their dependent family members and retired Railway employees. B.R.Singh hospital is a super speciality hospital having specialized departments like Cardiology, Gynecology, Neurology, Nephrology, Oncology, Ophthalmology etc. This coveted hospital is well known for its state of the art infrastructure and it's shouldering the noble responsibilities of providing emergency care, surgery, OPD, ICU facilities etc. All the beneficiaries can avail free health care services here at B.R.Singh hospital and it also offers free treatment for under privileged sections of society. Apart, this hospital encourages Research and Development activities, focussing on advanced medical technology. Indian Railway Ophthalmic Association along with Department of Ophthalmology B. R. Singh Hospital has recently organized a national

conference on the latest developments in Ophthalmology at "Manthan" Railway Auditorium, Kolkata on 09th February, 2025. This was attended by Railway ophthalmologists from various zones and renowned eye doctors from Kolkata and neighbouring zones. Guest speakers included Dr. Kumar J. from Mumbai, Dr. Raja Narayan from Hyderabad, Prof. Dinesh Talwar from Delhi, Dr. Mohan Rajan from Chennai and faculty doctors from All India Ophthalmological Society (AIOS), Dr. Debasish Bhattacharjee and Partha Biswas and other dignitaries. The conference discussed various topics throughout the day which included the recent advances and also the means to prevent blindness among our population. Two sessions were dedicated for medical examination of Railway candidates and employees where Senior Railway Ophthalmologists Dr. Subhankar Home, Dr. Arnab Mitra, Dr. Debjani Mukherjee, Dr Lalit Adhikary deliberated actively. Refractive Surgery Session was also one of the highlights of the conference.

### US envoy Dorothy Shea highlights ISIS threats in Pakistan at UNSC



MI News Service, New York: US Ambassador Dorothy Shea, Charge d'Affaires ad interim, on Monday emphasised Donald Trump administration's commitment to countering ISIS and other terrorist groups globally, including the growing threat in regions like Afghanistan and Pakistan. Highlighting recent actions, such as precision airstrikes against ISIS in Somalia, Shea underlined the US readiness to eliminate terrorists. She also addressed the significant threat posed by ISIS in Africa, particularly in the Sahel. While delivering remarks at a UN Security Council Briefing on Threats to International Peace and Security by Terrorist Acts on Monday, Shea said, "Countering ISIS and other terrorist groups around the world is a top priority for the Trump Administration. President Trump has already taken decisive action in conjunction with the Somali government by directing precision airstrikes against ISIS in Somalia on February 1st." She added, "As the Secretary-General's report

highlights, ISIS affiliates in Central Asia, most notably ISIS-Khorasan, also pose a significant global threat. We remain concerned about ISIS-K's capabilities to plot and conduct attacks, as well as sustain recruitment campaigns, particularly in Afghanistan and Pakistan. ISIS has expanded the frequency and lethality of its attacks in the Sahel, making this region the global epicenter for fatalities from terrorist attacks. As such, ISIS-Somalia, ISIS-Sahel, and ISIS-West Africa collectively pose a significant threat to stability and prosperity in Africa."

Speaking about Syria, Shea further said that the US is closely watching the situation in Syria, as it wants stability and security in the region, "We are also watching closely the situation in Syria. The United States wants stability and security in the region, and we want a Syria that lives in peace with its neighbors, respects human rights, and prohibits terrorists from using its country as a safe haven," she said.

"The United States is committed to preventing Syria from being used as a base for ISIS, Iranian-backed terrorism, or other terrorist groups that threaten the region. The complete and verifiable destruction of Syria's chemical weapons program is vital to regional security and stability, and ensuring these weapons are not used for terrorism," Shea added.

### Imran Khan requests court to conduct open hearing of his cases



MI News Service, Islamabad: Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has requested hearing of his cases in the open court. Imran Khan has filed a petition before the Islamabad High Court, saying multiple 'false' cases have been registered against him and his trial was being conducted in the 'controlled' environment of Adiala Jail, Dawn reported.

In the petition, Imran Khan said that his trial in the Adiala Jail was being conducted in violation of law and the Constitution. It also said that his lawyers were being harassed. The petition said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan since his arrest in 2023 has never been presented before an open court and his trials have been conducted in makeshift courts in the prison.

In the petition, it was said that the jail administration did not permit international media to cover the trial proceedings and only a handful of reporters were permitted to be present during the proceedings. It is said that media could not mention former Pakistan PM's name and used the term 'PTI founder' for him. The petition urged the court to issue order for conducting Imran Khan's open trial to ensure fair trial as mentioned in the constitution.

Meanwhile, Imran Khan's sister Aleema Khan, who had a meeting with PTI founder on Monday, said that he would write a third letter to Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Asim Munir next week.

Over the past few days, Imran Khan had already written two letters to General Asim Munir, which have been shared with the media as well. The establishment has denied receiving any such message.

Speaking to reporters outside Adiala Jail, Aleema Khan said previous letters to Pakistan's army chief were not written for any deal or relaxation, instead they were aimed at making the powers that be understand that the differences between the people and the armed forces were rising, according to Dawn report.

She said, "Imran Khan has clearly said that he will face all his cases before the existing judges despite the fact that the judges are being recruited to ensure that he does not get justice."

While quoting Imran Khan, Aleema Khan said, "He has also made it clear that he will not make any deal. My letter to the COAS was not for a deal. I wrote it to make him [COAS] understand that the army and masses have to get united and fight against the terrorism."

She further said, "It will be an open letter on behalf of the masses, and people will also read it." She said Imran Khan had lauded the PTI's rally held in Swabi on Saturday, noting that it witnessed participation of people from Punjab and Sindh. She said that Imran Khan had called on Pakistan's Chief Justice Yahya Afridi to ensure the rule of law and urged the overseas Pakistanis to stand by democracy.

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) marked the first anniversary of the February 8 polls with a public meeting at the Swabi Interchange on the Islamabad-Peshawar Motorway, where it called for the release of party founder Imran Khan and the return of its 'stolen mandate,' Dawn reported.

### 'Alimar Khula Talaq' is a fictional character but realistic

Nurul Islam Khan

The dream book fair has ended. It has cast a shadow of sadness in the minds of all book lovers. Many books have been published based on that fair. Some books have left a mark on people's minds. "Alimar Khula Talaq" written by author SM Shamsuddin is such a unique book. In fact, a picture of great abuse has emerged in the Muslim society regarding this divorce practice. It is said that in the non-Muslim society, this divorce has created a joke. Islam has been changed. To be honest, are we unable to explain that Islam, the eternal and pure truth and the religion of peace, is not so weak? The greatest and pure truth, Islam, does not allow this. Rather, the relationship between husband and wife is very sweet to Allah Almighty. He does not like divorce at all. The Quran mentions taking many alternative measures to control his wife without divorcing her. The husband does not like cooking, so he divorced his wife! Such serious allegations are floating around in the society. However, Alima's open divorce is basically a fictional character. The picture of the life struggle of a helpless woman depicted in a realistic way is revealed.

Alima is a fatherless daughter of a lower middle class family in Hatkhola village. She wants to establish herself by fighting poverty. She continues her studies even while carrying the burden of the family on her shoulders. But in the middle of the road, she has to marry an uneducated alcoholic. To get rid of her husband's constant torture and neglect, she takes refuge in the instructions of the Quran of Islam to get a divorce. Following the instructions, she gives open



divorce, becomes free and starts her studies again. He moves forward like a dedicated soldier, facing various criticisms and neglect from the common people of the society, shrouded in the darkness of illiteracy, and financial hardship. After studying WBCS, she became a Joint BDO. Various harsh and oblique comments from the society came about this struggle of the scholar, and the reaction of the people of the society on Khula Talaq, and the practical life of the members of the Janasebak Panchayat. According to the recent census, various social crises have emerged, including statistics on the divorce of people of different religions and living separately even if they have a husband. Teacher Shamsuddin has highlighted the unknown aspects of various social crises, including the instructions of the Quran on the equal dignity and rights of men and women and a detailed explanation of divorce. The work of translating the book into English and Urdu is underway for its wide dissemination. That important book will be released very soon. I liked the author's artistic creations. The author can only be praised.

### Hamas terrorist organisation, aims for Israel's destruction: Economy Minister Nir Barkat



MI News Service, New Delhi: Following Hamas' announcement that it intends to delay the next release of Israeli hostages planned for Saturday, Nir Barkat, Minister of Economy of Israel, called the group a "terrorist organisation," stating that their goal is the destruction of Israel.

Barkat further emphasised the need to ensure that Gaza does not remain under Hamas' control. While speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the India-Israel Business Forum event in New Delhi on Tuesday, Barkat said, "Hamas is a terror organisation, the jihadists. Their goal is destruction of the state of Israel and the jihadist by the way, are not only considering Jews and Israel. We are all on the same line. All non-Muslims are their target and Israel has no choice but to make sure Hamas does not stay and govern Gaza because they want to do October 7 again and again." He added, "...Seventy-six hostages are still left. We have to bring them back home. We have to make sure that Hamas does not survive after this war for the benefit not only of the future Israelis but for the benefit of the world."

On the India-Israel Business Forum, Barkat

told reporters, "I was invited to India by Minister Piyush Goyal. We discussed the huge business opportunities that India and Israel have together. Geopolitics makes Israel very close to the US but also very close to India..."

"I see India scaling very rapidly to become a very dominant global player. Israel, though small, is very innovative... I am leading the biggest-ever delegation from Israel to any country in the world... I am very optimistic that we will be able to find the solution and scale the economies make the lives of Indians and Israelis much better..." he added. Meanwhile, Ambassador of Israel to India, Reuven Azar praised Israeli business leaders for their resilience and support during the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and acknowledged their efforts in contributing to Israel's war effort while maintaining the country's economic growth.

While addressing the event, Azar said, "The Israeli business leaders came here today, they came here energised, they came after sixteen months in which they directly and indirectly supported the war effort while at the same time, keeping the economy of Israel growing despite the war."



### Ranji Trophy: Vidarbha, Gujarat, Mumbai continue to fight for title after cruising to semi-finals with emphatic wins

**NEW DELHI [INDIA]** : Vidarbha, Gujarat and defending champions Mumbai booked their seats in the semi-finals of the ongoing Ranji Trophy, with Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir fighting for the final spot.

In the first quarter-final, despite losing their footing in the first innings, Mumbai showed their champion mentality and effortlessly bounced back to confirm Haryana's exit from the tournament.

Royston Dias bamboozled Haryana batters with his left-arm seam and lifted Mumbai to a 152-run victory at the historic Eden Gardens. The first clash of the final eight began with Mumbai crumbling in front of Haryana pacers on a hazy morning of Day 1.

For the first 30 overs, Mumbai were forced to sit and witness a horror show from the batters. The star-studded line-up, including Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube and Ajinkya Rahane, returned to the dressing room without making much of an impact.

Mumbai were reeling at 113/7 after group-stage hero Shardul Thakur's dismissal. But once again, Mumbai's lower order played the hero's part and came to the rescue. Tanush Kotian and Shams Mulani patiently dealt with the pacers to force an unprecedented comeback.

The duo forged a 165-run stand for the eighth wicket to propel Mumbai to 315. Haryana responded with gallantry as skipper Ankit Kumar tonked 136 to keep his side in the game. However, a collapse in the middle order saw Haryana slip from 218/3 to 301, therefore conceding a 15-run lead.

In Mumbai's second turn, Rahane played a captain's knock and fired a blistering ton to keep Haryana at bay. Dube (48) and Suryakumar (70) chipped in with valuable contributions, setting a competitive 354-run target for Haryana to chase down.

In reply, Haryana stumbled to 60/5 early and needed a moment of magic to turn the tides in their favour. Opener Lakshay Dalal (64) while Sumit Kumar (62) frustrated Mumbai for some time but couldn't resist the relentless pressure from the bowlers.

In the second quarter-final, Tamil Nadu were always chasing the shadows after Vidarbha slammed 353 runs on the board, courtesy of Karun Nair's century in the first innings.

In reply to Vidarbha's 353, Pradosh Ranjan Paul and Sonu Yadav waged a lone war with their fifties as Tamil Nadu folded on 225, conceding a mammoth 128-run lead.

Vidarbha continued to maintain the pressure on Tamil Nadu as Yash Rathod raised his side to a state of dominance with a rollicking century in the second innings. Vidarbha ended their second turn with a 272-run total, setting a massive 401-run target for Tamil Nadu to chase for a spot in the final four.

The target proved to be too much for Tamil Nadu as they folded their innings on 202, suffering a 198-run defeat.

In the third match of the final eight, Urvil Patel and Gujarat pacers played a crucial hand in Saurashtra's demolition en route to the final four of the Ranji Trophy.

After Saurashtra fell on 216, Urvil (140), who broke the record for the second-fastest T20 fifty in November, wreaked havoc with the bat with his maiden first-class century.

Along with Urvil, Jaymeet Manishbhai Patel (103) was also at the forefront of Gujarat's spicy attack. Their classic strokeplay allowed Gujarat to put 511 on the board and take a hefty 295-run lead over Saurashtra.

Saurashtra were completely torn apart when they came out to bat for the second time in the game. Saurashtra batters resisted but eventually faced the impending defeat. Priyajeet Narendrasinh Jadeja starred for Gujarat with his four-wicket haul as Saurashtra conceded a defeat by an innings and 98 runs.

### Jomel Warrican, Beth Mooney bag ICC Players of the Month for January

**DUBAI [UAE]** : The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday unveiled the Men's and Women's Players of the Month for January 2025 as the West Indies spinner Jomel Warrican and Australia batter Beth Mooney.

Warrican, with his left-arm spin, inspired the Caribbean team to their first Test win in Pakistan since 1990. On the other hand, Mooney was at her scintillating best as Australia convincingly outclassed England in the Ashes.

With his memorable performance in the sub-continent, Warrican won his maiden ICC Men's Player of the Month award by fending off tough competition from two standout spinners, Pakistan's seasoned ball twirler Noman Ali



and India's mystery spinner Varun Chakravarty. The 32-year-old's scythed 19 wickets in two Test matches in January at an average of just 9.00.

Despite Pakistan winning the series opener, Warrican returned with ten wickets in Multan's spin-friendly conditions. In the first innings, he registered figures of 3/69 which was preceded

by his career-best spell of 7/32 in the second.



He continued to outshine everyone with his brilliance in the second Test, not only with the ball but also with the bat in hand. He arrived at the crease when the West Indies were tottering at 95/9 in the first innings, and lifted the spirits with his unbeaten 36. His exploits with Kemar Roach foiled the Pakistan onslaught and propelled the tourists to a respectable total of 163.

With contributions of 4/43 and 5/27, his all-round heroics heralded a historic 120-run victory. He was crowned with the Player of the Series accolade, a recognition for his sensational performance.

Warrican becomes the first West Indian to win the award since his compatriot spinner

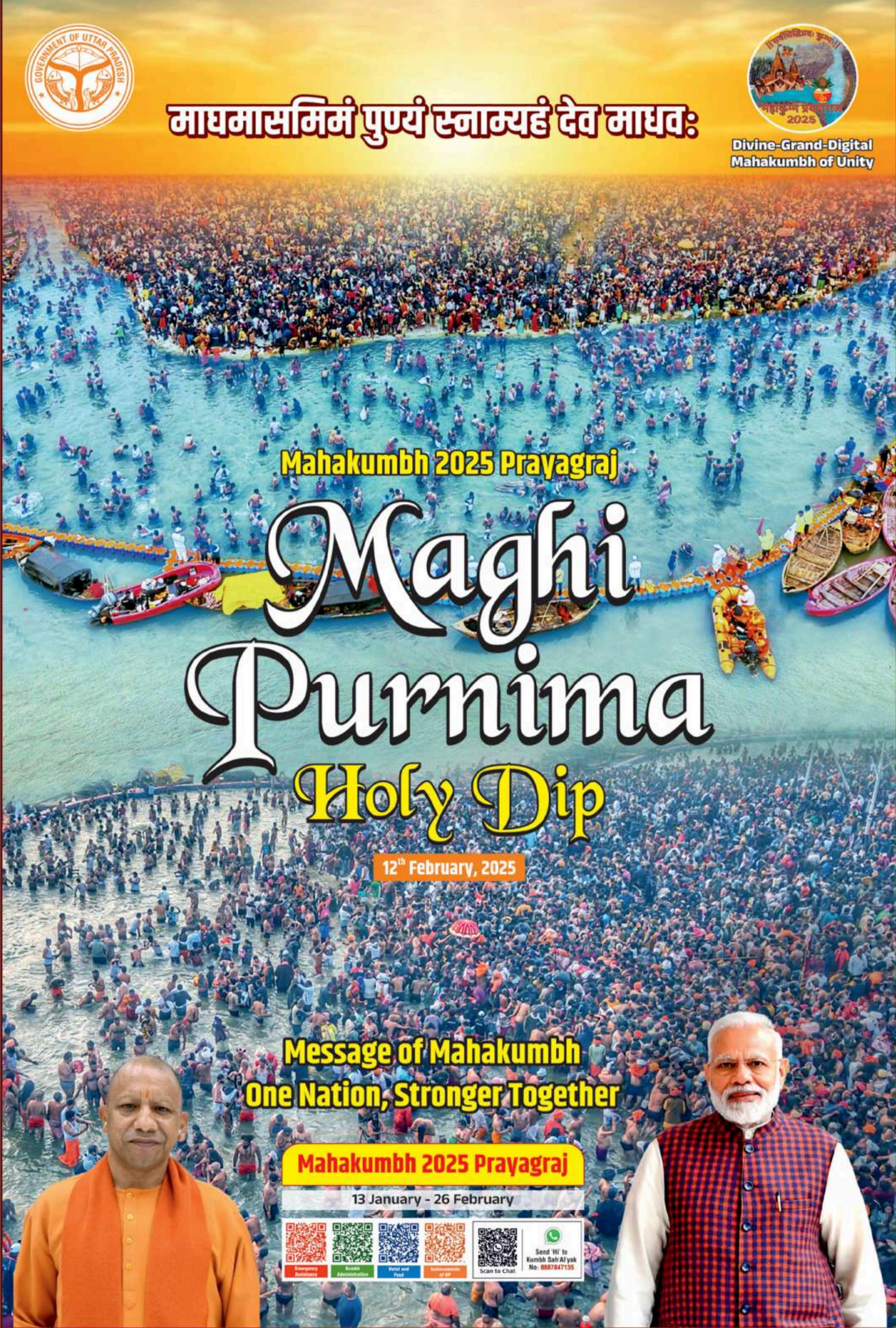
Gudakesh Motie achieved the feat back in May 2024.

"It's an honour to win this award. One of my goals for this year was my first five-for in Test cricket, but I did not think that it would be this grand! I see this as one small step in my cricketering career, and I look forward to many more. I promised my captain something special in this series, especially when my father, my biggest supporter, predicted a phenomenal performance for me," Warrican said as quoted from ICC. "Multan has a special place in my heart: not only because of the historic win for the West Indies, beating Pakistan away from home but also by earning this prestigious award," he added.

# माघमासमिमं पुण्यं स्नाम्यहं देव माधवः

Divine-Grand-Digital Mahakumbh of Unity




## Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj

# Maghi Purnnima Holy Dip

12<sup>th</sup> February, 2025


### Message of Mahakumbh

## One Nation, Stronger Together




**Mahakumbh 2025 Prayagraj**


13 January - 26 February




Emergency Assistance




Ticket Administration



Food and Drink



Accommodation of IP



Scan to Chat

Send 'Hi' in Kumbh Sah Aiyuk No: 887847135

**Upcoming Snan Date**

Maha Shivaratri - 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2025

**Mahakumbh Helplines**

1920 <small>Mahakumbh Mela Helpline</small>	112 <small>Emergency Service</small>	1010 <small>Food and Civil Supplies Helpline</small>	102, 108 <small>Ambulance Service</small>	18004199139 <small>Railway Helpline</small>
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Information & Public Relations Department, Uttar Pradesh | [mahakumbh\\_25/](https://mahakumbh_25/) | [upmahakumbh/](https://upmahakumbh/) | [MahaKumbh\\_2025](https://mahakumbh_2025/) | <https://kumbh.gov.in/>

### SO Bharat President Mallika Nadda thanks government for awarding cash prizes to medal-winning athletes

**NEW DELHI [INDIA]** : Mallika Nadda, the President of Special Olympics Bharat (SO Bharat) welcomed the decision of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) to allocate cash prizes for athletes with intellectual disabilities, winning medals at the World Games.

This decision came after the Ministry's revision of the cash awards allotment scheme to medal winners in international tournaments, according to a press release from SO Bharat.

"It's an essential step in the direction of making the Indian sports culture more inclusive. These prizes are not just a way to help the athletes with their finances but also act as a motivation tool, encouraging athletes with intellectual and developmental disabilities to become a part of the sports world and redefine their lives. We are extremely thankful to Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Raksha Khadse, (MoS) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for recognizing the efforts, hard work and achievements of our athletes," said Mallika Nadda while thanking the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

As per the latest revision of the Scheme of Cash Awards to Medal Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches, issued on January 31st, the cash award scheme will be applicable for the events held quadrennially, i.e., after every four years, like the Special Olympics World Games.

Athletes winning gold medals at the Special Olympics World Games will be given Rs 20 lakhs each while the silver and bronze medalists will be awarded Rs 14 lakhs and Rs 8 lakhs, respectively.

The decision can be seen as an attempt to make the sporting world more inclusive, recognising the efforts of athletes with intellectual disabilities and motivating more people to engage in sports, which holds a promising future.

